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**REVIEWS:** 1:35 M2A2 BRADLEY ■ 1:35 JAGDTIGER ■ FULL SIZE M1A1

# Model MILITARY INTERNATIONAL

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## OLD SCHOOL BLAZER

Italeri's 1:35 M60 Blazer gets a makeover

## TAKING SOME FLAK

Alan Hobbies 1:35  
Flakpanzer 38(t),  
upgraded



## ARMOUR AUGMENTATION, RUSSIAN STYLE

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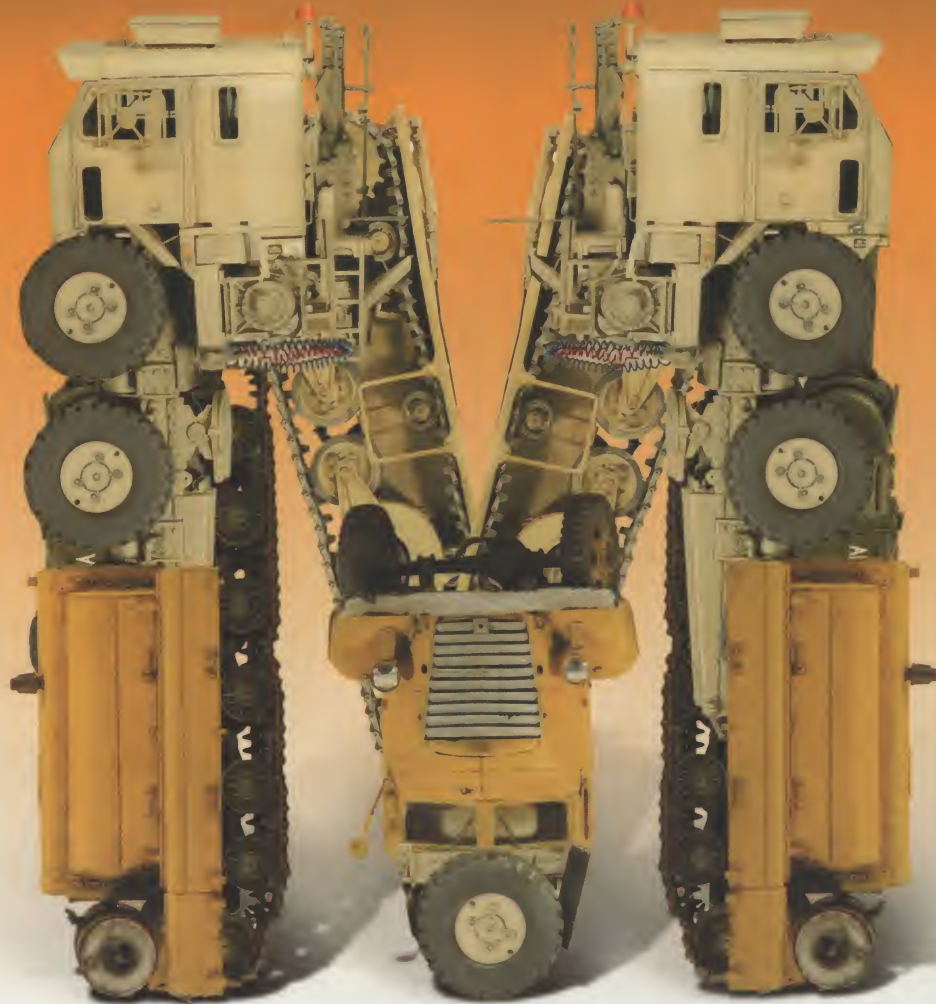
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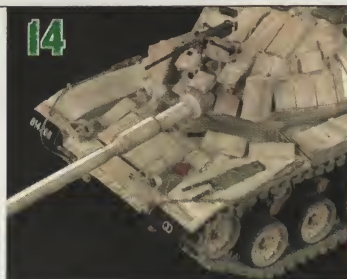
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Part one of a Sicilian diorama describes the build of the resin M7 that will take centre place

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The Italeri M60 Blazer gets the works

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Russian style, Trumpeter's KV-1 becomes our tech guide guinea pig this month

### p 28 TAKING SOME FLAK

The Alan Hobbies Flakpanzer 38T kit gets a right riveting makeover

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Dragon's Hunting Tiger gets the Pete Usher treatment

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Academy M2A2 OIF We poke our nose in the box and tell you what we think

### p 40 BAND OF BROTHERS VIGNETTE

A small diorama inspired by the TV series

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A round up of the latest figures on release

### p 52 COMBAT CADILLAC

We take an in-depth look at the US Army's M1A1HA Abrams



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## Diary Dates...

**EAST NEUK MODEL SHOW AND SWAPMEET,**  
10th June  
YMCA, Bonnygate,  
Cupar, Scotland.  
Contact: Brian 01334-655131  
or Dave 01334-652439

**MAFVA NATIONALS**  
18th June  
Duxford, Cambs.  
www.mafva.org.uk  
Contact:  
paul.middleton600@ntlworld.com

**AMAY MODÈLES CLUB**  
24-25th June  
Amay Modèles Club organizes  
its 15th Modelling Weekend  
(competition, exhibition and  
swap) at the IPES Huy, 6  
Avenue Delchambre, B-4500  
Huy (Belgium).  
Contact: Michel Calluy,  
13 Thier du Moulin, B-4530  
Villers-le-Bouillet (B)  
Tel: 00 32 85 231086  
michel.calluy@skynet.be

**DRAGON EXPO 2006**  
23-25th June  
Anaheim Convention Centre,  
Anaheim, California, USA.  
www.dexpo.com/dx/06/news.asp

**GMMS 2006**  
Gravesham Military Modelling  
Society will be holding  
their annual open day and  
competition on Saturday,  
7th October 2006.  
Please note new venue for  
this year: The North West  
Kent College of Technology,  
Lower Higham Road, Chalk,  
Gravesend, Kent, with free  
parking on the campus.  
Doors will open at 10.30am  
with local model clubs  
and a variety of traders in  
attendance. The competition  
is open to all with a maximum  
of three entries per person  
per class. These will include  
Figures, AFVs, Dioramas,  
Conversions and Scratch Builds  
plus Best of Show Award.  
Light refreshments will be  
available on the day. The  
GMMS famous raffle will take  
place just before the prize  
giving closing the show at  
4.30pm.  
If you have access to the  
Internet and wish to visit an  
on-line map site, the postcode  
is DA12 2JJ.  
For further details and  
bookings please contact:  
Jean Bickerstaff 01474 327003



## OUR MOST FAMOUS READER?

Whilst Model Military International's Group Editor Marcus Nicholls was off sunning himself and writing a report on this year's Tamiyacon in Orange County, California, he managed to pass on a copy of Issue One of MMI to Mr S. Tamiya, who had shown much interest in our new magazine when we met the Tamiya team at the Nuremberg Toyfair earlier in the year. From all accounts he liked it a lot, so much so he wouldn't put it down! Here, Mr Tamiya inspects the new I:35 Chars B, to be reviewed soon in MMI...

## NEW IN FROM ACCURATE ARMOUR

Just in are these photos and code numbers for latest products from Accurate Armour including the first releases in their I:48 WWII Airfield support vehicle range.

Along with a Loyd Carrier and a couple of very nice 4.2" mortar sets in I:35.

- I:48** K48001 Austin K2Y 4x2 Heavy Ambulance (RAF, USAF, Army)  
K48002 AEC 6x6 2500 Gallon Refueller (RAF Bomber Command)  
K48003 Bedford QL 950 Gallon Refueller (RAF)  
K48004 Crossley Q-Type 4x4 Fire Foam Tender (RAF)
- I:35** KI36 British WW-2 Loyd Carrier (Personnel)  
G006 British WW-II 4.2" Heavy Mortar (Deployed with ammunition) Inc. decals.  
G007 British WW-II 4.2" Heavy Mortar with 10 cwt trailer (Deployed or stowed with ammunition) Inc. decals.

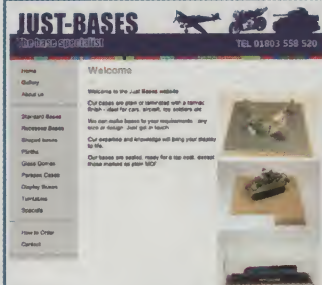


## JUST TOPPING UP...

We just had to include this photo of a restored Sherman Firefly being refuelled in a petrol station, after being off loaded from a low loader transport lorry for a military vehicle rally in Europe. It's definitely one of the more surreal images.

For the complete story and lots more photos of this unusual sight and some interesting detail shots of the firefly go to:

<http://barthuysmans.fotopic.net/c295282.html>



## BASES ON THE WEB

Just Bases of Paignton, Devon are now on the World Wide Web with their new site listing their entire product range and services. For more information please visit them at:

[www.just-bases.co.uk](http://www.just-bases.co.uk)



## CROMWELL PHOTO MIX UP

The eagle-eyed Israeli armour modellers among you may well have noticed that on page 61 of Issue 2 we reviewed two Cromwell I:72 Merkavas, but unfortunately the photos got mixed up and we printed one of Cromwell Models' M60 Batash instead. Sorry for any confusion.





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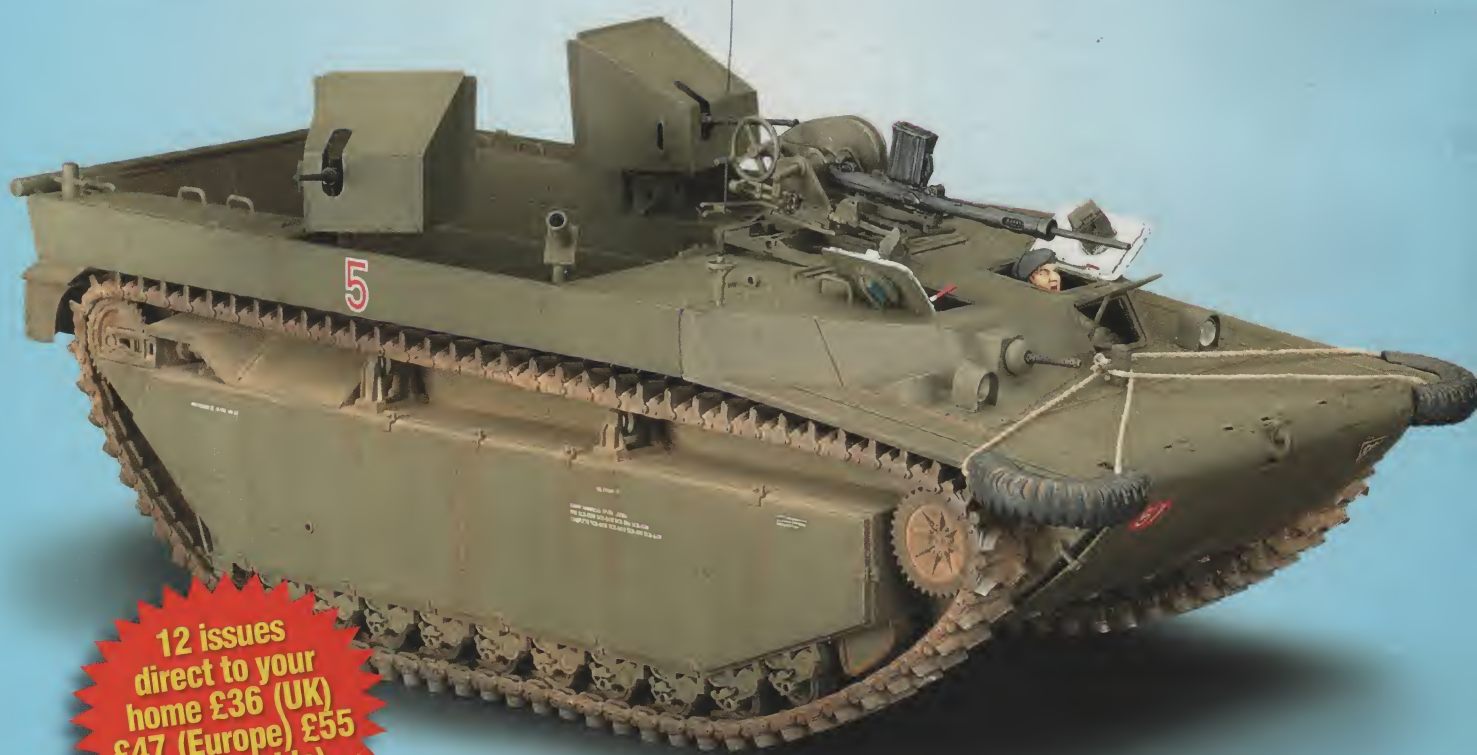
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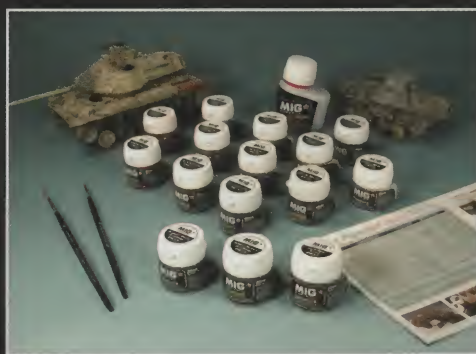
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# PALERMO POUNDER

The Editor tackles a somewhat problematic Priest, describing the pitfalls on the way.







The gap between the transmission housing and the superstructure front is all too apparent in this photo. The author chose to cover the gap with sandbags.



In this photo we can see how much the front superstructure plate overhangs the actual sides of the vehicle. Some careful trimming was required so as not to lose the edges of the spare track block boxes.



It can be seen here how close the spare track block stowage boxes have come to the edges of the hull sides due to the amount of material that needed to be removed.



Once the superstructure front plate had been sanded to the correct width, the missing weld seams were added thin strips of plastic card before adding the weld effect with a Pyrograve tool.



The detail within the fighting compartment starts to come to light under a coat of primer, although some omissions become noticeable when compared to available reference photos.



Karaya soft copper wire was used for the towing cable on the rear engine deck. Being much softer than brass wire it holds its shape without wanting to spring back and breaking off the delicate clamps.



Here we can see that the model has been grey primed and any flaws have been addressed by further sanding or filling.



Duro putty was used to replicate the sandbags on the front hull. The tear in one of the sandbags was achieved by gently teasing the edges of the hole with a cocktail stick.



A close up of where the casting on the lower hull side is so thin that it hasn't formed fully resulting in this hard to fix gap.

**H**istorica have helped to fill a gap in the M3/M4 based vehicles, because while we have Sherman gun tanks coming out of our ears, the only M7 all we have had for a long time is the late version from Italeri, which is starting to show its age. In the box you get a full resin kit including a partial engine compartment and a set of aftermarket Friulmodel white metal tracks. (New kits are now supplied with Modelkasten injection plastic tracks).

## CONSTRUCTION

The actual construction would normally be very straightforward on a kit like this, but this one wasn't exactly straightforward. Well to put it mildly I didn't like building this model very much. What I will do instead is explain the reasons for my lack of enjoyment for this project. In no particular order I will list the major problems and errors I came across with the kit.

First of all the instructions were grainy black and white photocopied images of an assembled model, so

some of the exact placement of some of the smaller parts wasn't particularly clear. Either one of the Concord or In Action series books on US Self propelled Artillery would be beneficial to have near by during the construction stages.

The ammo stowage bins had not been mastered correctly or accurately the sides of these were not smooth or straight, they required some major sanding to get the sides flat. Secondly when I cut the ammo packing tubes to the correct height to be inserted into

the holes I discovered that none of the holes were the same depth, which resulted in the packing tubes all sitting at slightly differing heights.

The sidewall of the right hand lower hull side had been cast so thinly that there was a hole right through the side, this proved impossible to repair so I left it knowing I was going to fill the fighting compartment with crew figures later.

The front superstructure plate was much wider than the overall

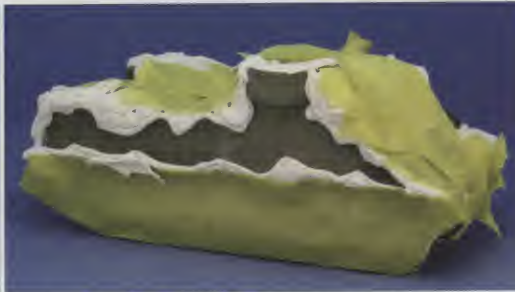


The rear deck needed some extra work in the form of some tools from the spares box along with some lead foil retaining straps. The missing mesh between the filler caps came from an unused Eduard brass set for the Italeri M7 Priest. Accurate Armour supplied Karaya copper wire was used for the towing hawser. The final painting and weathering have helped bring this area to life.

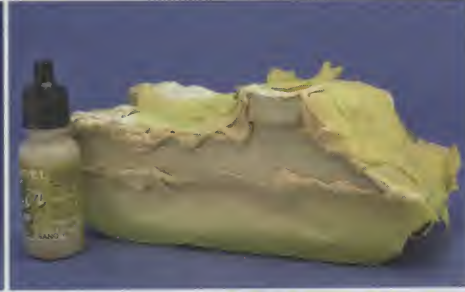




The base olive drab has been applied. Note the subtle tonal changes and streaking the author has added with the aid of an airbrush.



UHU White Tac has now been placed around the areas to receive the sand camouflage. This technique will leave a much tighter sprayed than can be achieved with free hand airbrushing alone.



Vallejo Model Air sand yellow was used for the base coat of sand followed by Vallejo Modelcolor Iraqi sand for a more faded and weathered look.



With all the masking removed the author was left with a neat feathered edged camouflage pattern.



Archer dry transfers were burnished on with the aid of Mission Models Multi Tool.



Now the markings are in place the weathering can begin. Some subtle paint chipping was followed by colour washes, weathering pigments and pastel chalks.

width of the hull sides, and this proved very difficult to rectify without trashing the grouser stowage boxes on the outer edges of this part. In the end I had to trim either side, and whilst dealing with this problem I noticed there was also a 3mm gap between the transmission housing and the superstructure as well. This gap was so large that the driver's position was clearly visible from the outside. The gap was too wide to be filled, so the only option was to disguise it by placing a row of sandbags over it. Duro Putty was used to make the sandbags, the hessian texture was replicated by

pressing a piece of old cotton T-shirt onto the still wet putty, the stitching was added with the aid of a cocktail stick.

Historica thoughtfully included a hollow engine compartment and radial engine, the problem is there it's not complete; this leaves you with the decision to either add the missing parts yourself or leave it as it is and glue the rear deck in place as very little is visible through the small grille.

The built-up model on the box top is shown fitted with headlight guards but none are supplied in the kit, the opening on the rear deck is also missing any form of mesh

as well. I think a small brass fret wouldn't have gone a miss in this kit either. The gun mount suffered from some major mould slippage again proving difficult to rectify.

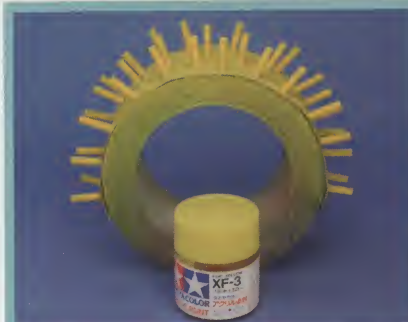
As a consolation the overall casting quality was excellent on the rest of the kit - what must be remembered is that the accuracy of the resin parts can only be as good as the master they are cast from!

#### PAINTING

After I gave the model an initial coat of grey primer some flaws in the model became readily apparent, these included misshapen ammo bin sides, holes

in the lower hull side, along with some mould slip on the gun mount. All these faults needed to be corrected by both filling and sanding of just some sanding on the minor imperfections. With the repairs completed, the model was then given an overall coat of Vallejo Model Air Olive Drab 043. Misting on lighter shades of Vallejo Model Color Brown Violet and some darker streaks from the original OD mixed with black all helped to add to some interest to the monotone OD finish.

With the base colour in place I set about adding the broad sand wavy camouflage pattern to the



#### Tech Tip!

To get the thin yellow lines around all of the ammunition container tubes, the author first sprayed them all in Tamiya matt yellow whilst stuck to a piece of doubled over masking tape. Once dry thin strips of Tamiya masking tape was wrapped around each tube prior to applying a final coat of dark grey, in this case Vallejo Model Air Black Grey. Lastly the tape can be removed leaving neat yellow bands around each tube.





The combination of weathering pigments and graphite powders have been combined to give the fighting compartment a life-like grimey and well used look.



The ranging pole was constructed using a piece of brass tube with the tip of a sewing needle poking out of one end. It was then painted using the same technique used on the ammunition tubes.



The spare track blocks were left overs from the RHPS set used on the model to replace the Friulmodel set that are supplied in the box. The rusty grouzers came from an old Accurate Armour M10 kit.



Mig Production's Black Smoke pigment was used to simulate the exhaust staining on the rear hull.



The engine deck was left devoid of stowage on purpose to show off the kit detail, in reality these vehicles would be piled high with extra gear for the crew members.



The .50 cal machine gun supplied in the Ordnance Factory kit is very nice and looks excellent under a coat of paint. The unit markings are again from the Archer Transfers range.



To replicate the grease on the gun recoil sliders, the author used a mix of Tamiya X19 Smoke and X26 Clear Orange mixed together. The translucent colour is perfect for simulating this effect.



Subtle weathering and damage has been applied to all areas of the model. It is time consuming but does make a lot of difference to the look of the finished vehicle.





From this angle the engine bay is clearly visible, but while the actual radial engine is well detailed, all the minor fixtures and fittings that would make it complete are missing. The main problem is that the area with no detail is the only part that can be viewed when the decking is in place.

hull sides. To do this I first marked out the pattern using UHU White-Tac and masked off the rest of the model using Tamiya masking tape. I was now ready to add the sand with out fear of over spray ending up where I didn't want it. The first colour added was Sand Yellow 028, followed by Iraqi Sand, again to add some tonal difference and some interest to the finish. With crossed fingers I removed all the White-Tac and masking tape and hopefully reveal a nice tight edged pattern.

The decals I used for this project all came from the Archer range of dry-rub transfers. During the Sicilian campaign to reduce 'friendly fire' incidents, units were ordered to enlarge the circles surrounding the Allied stars in either yellow or if this colour wasn't available, to white. I chose the easier option of just using

the largest star and circle on the Archer sheet. That way I didn't set myself the difficult task of trying to make a mask and spray the circle in yellow...

Weathering took the form of oil paint colour washes using both dark shades to first accentuate the detail followed by washes of light beige to simulate dust collecting in nooks and crannies. The washes were followed by some minor chipping, using the technique shown in the FAQ book by Mig Productions. This basically consists of first adding a lighter patch than the base camouflage colour to where the scratch or chip is to go, then inside of this colour add your chosen rust or metal colour, the end result looking like a mini fried egg! I tend to use

German Camouflage Black-Brown 822 for this. Lastly, some localised washes with oil paint and pastels thinned with enamel thinners were used to add some fuel stains and rust streaks.

The tracks were added last of all. In the Historica kit box are a set of Friulmodel white metal individual tracks - I think including a set of highly detailed aftermarket tracks is a great idea, apart from the fact Friulmodel tracks are very heavy and therefore sag which is perfect for most styles but unfortunately Sherman style tracks are 'live', which means if the tracks are removed from the tank they naturally want to curl up. The idea of this is it helps to keep the tracks tight and stop them being thrown so easily. The result of this is you don't get any sag between return rollers. I decided to use a set of injection plastic tracks from RHPS. These are moulded as individual links with separate slide on end connectors which were made up into top and bottom runs for each side, then painted and weathered fully before fitting to the model.

#### CONCLUSION

Not a model I enjoyed building at all, although I must admit I'm pretty pleased with the way it came out in the end. As I said earlier, it must be remembered that a resin kit is only as good as the master it is cast from. In my opinion there were just too many problems to ignore. In the past I have built and reviewed quite a few resin or multi media kits, some of which have had their share of

problems, and many of which I have given the benefit of the doubt - my philosophy being a kit with faults is still better than no kit and having to scratchbuild it. However with the Ordnance Factory M7 I had to draw the line on being lenient... For a kit of this price (around £70+) I really don't think it's good enough.

#### Modelspec

Historica Productions Ordnance Factory M7 Priest  
(Early Production) Kit No.0F001

#### Sets used

RHPS smooth block M4 tracks.

#### Paints used

Vallejo;  
Olive Drab 043, Iraqi sand 819  
Desert Yellow 028, Black 950  
Yellow 953, White 951, Black Grey 862  
German Camouflage Black-Brown 822

#### References

US Self-Propelled Guns In Action No38  
Squadron/Signal Publications ISBN 0-89747-403-1  
US Armoured Artillery in WWII (7044)  
Concord Publications ISBN 962-361-688-0  
Tanks Illustrated No.11 Patton's tanks (Out Of Print)  
Tanks Illustrated No.20 Allied Tanks Italy WWII (OOP)  
Osprey Vanguard No.39 US Armour Camouflage and Markings 1917-45

- ☒ Nice to have an earlier version of the M7 in 1:35, crisp clean casting on the good bits.
- ☒ Poor instructions and ill-fitting parts and some serious casting flaws...

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# OLD SCHOOL BLAZER

Writing about or trying to pin down exact marks and modifications of Israeli armour is like trying to pick up ball bearings with a pitchfork! The Editor builds Italeri's kit, with some help from aftermarket sets...



**T**he M60 series of tank has probably gone through more reincarnations than any other vehicle in the IDF inventory. It was also the most numerous with some 1400 in service at it's peak. Italeri have depicted a Magach 6B, this was the first upgrade, including replacing the original .50cal armed M1 commander's turret with a low profile Urdan cupola, fitting machine gun mounts for both the commander and loader's hatches, as well as a thermal sleeve for the M68 105 mm main gun. The most noticeable addition was the installation of first generation reactive armour. The tank in this form saw service during Operation Peace for Galilee, the 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

Magach 6B's were modified further shortly after with the inclusions of an enlarged turret, stowage baskets, new tracks and drive sprockets from the IDF's home grown Merkava tank along with many smaller improvements.

#### CONSTRUCTION

Construction started with the lower hull and running gear as per the instructions, and many of the smaller fittings suffered here from very heavy mould lines that took quite a time to clean-up. The drive sprockets needed to have the missing mud clearing holes added; to do this I first carefully drilled out three holes in each, then these holes were elongated with a selection of needle files.

At this stage the instructions recommend the link and length tracks to be fitted, but since I was going to replace the kit tracks with a set of working tracks from AFV Club I ignored this bit as they could be assembled and painted separately and fitted much later. ►



This shot shows the original late style Accurate Armour barrel that was replaced before painting. Following extra research, this type of barrel was fitted at a later date than depicted on the model.



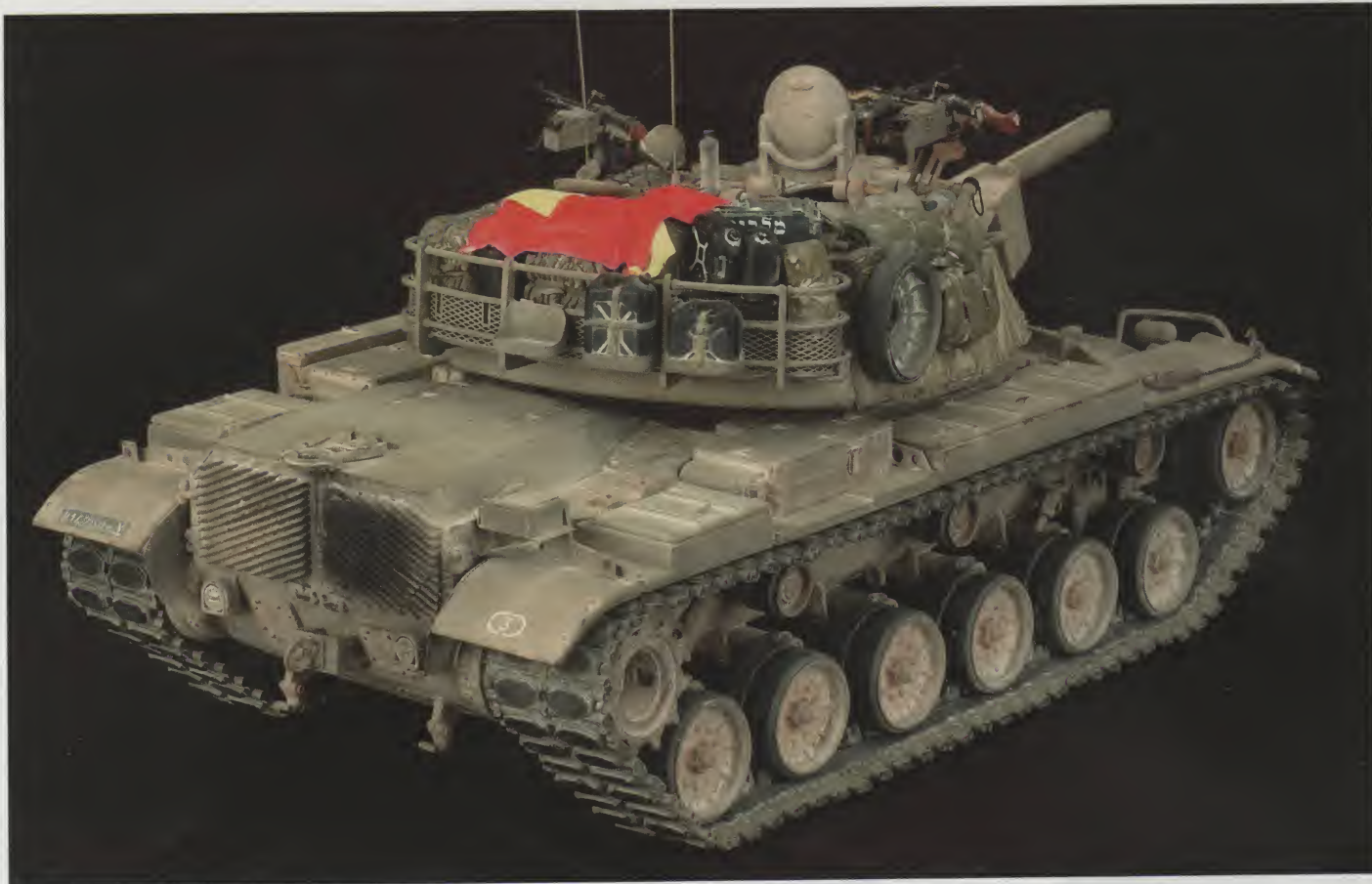
The Eduard etched brass set for the M60 includes this very nice mesh for the turret basket that offers a great improvement over the woven nylon netting supplied in the kit.



The low profile Urdan commander's cupola was detailed with some MR Models clear plastic periscopes (available from Accurate Armour) and thin plastic card covers.







◀ The next stage deals with the upper hull fittings, most of which were added as per the instructions, I did leave off all the fender braces and the Infantry phone as these items all needed some help from the Eduard etched brass set.

One peculiar thing I noticed with the turret opening was the 1mm high lip that runs around the ring on the hull. When the turret is installed it makes it stand too far off the hull resulting in a very noticeable gap between the two.

The only thing to do was to grind this off with a jeweller's burr in a mini-drill. Once this was completed the turret could sit correctly on the hull.

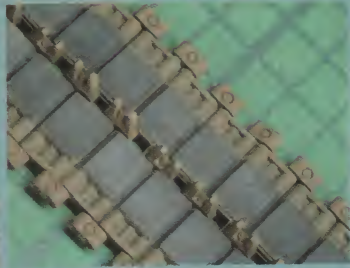
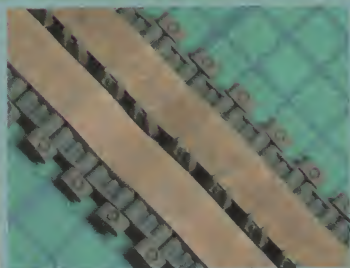
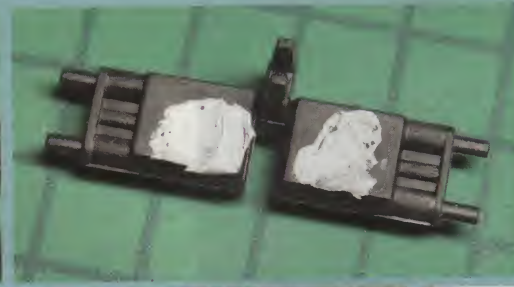
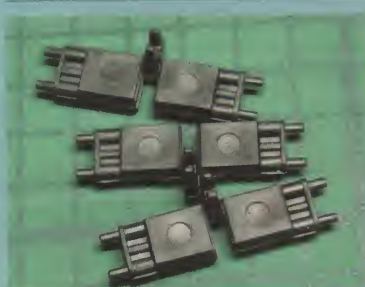
#### TURRET

Turret construction starts with the stowage basket, at this point I was really glad I had decided to use an Eduard set. Cutting out that horrible nylon netting into the shape of basket mesh is not in my top one thousand list of fun

modelling tasks. With this tricky bit out of the way I thought the rest of the turret would be simple! The basic turret assembly was very simple, where it started to go wrong was the installation of the Blazer armour blocks. The problem was that when I started to glue them in place on the turret sides as per the instructions, I had run out of room, this meant the last block on each side actually overhanging the rear of the turret! Finally after much adjusting and trimming some

off the edge of the larger blocks I eventually got them to fit.

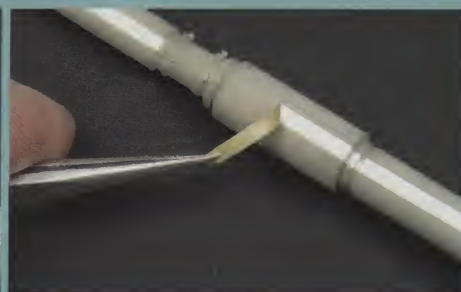
One mistake I made was to include Accurate Armour's late 105mm Israeli gun with thermal jacket, I was so keen to fit it that I hadn't checked to see if they had been fitted back in 1982. Well after rechecking my reference I realised these weren't fitted until later. Fortunately Mission Models came to the rescue by supplying the correct gun from the Barrel Depot who make very



#### Tech Tip!

The AFV Club replacement tracks suffered from injection pin marks which were filled in using model filler and sanded flush using a selection of sanding sticks. The tracks were then painted by first airbrushing them in black/grey to replicate the rubber parts. This was followed by masking off these areas and then spraying the exposed parts in an appropriate brown before weathering using washes and pigments.





### Tech Tip!

Most if not all IDF Tanks have an aerial recognition stripe running along the length of the main gun barrel. This was achieved by first spraying the entire barrel matt white. A thin strip of Tamiya masking tape was then applied along the top of the barrel and carefully pressed down to prevent the camouflage colour bleeding underneath. Once the grey has been applied the tape was removed to leave a neat white stripe.

nice turned aluminium barrels, the one I actually needed was the M-68E1 barrel with thermal sleeve No.35004.

### MAKING TRACKS

From the start I wanted to replace the kit tracks with a set of AFV Club's working individual link injection plastic tracks these track are a big improvement over the Italeri items. They aren't perfect though as they have two ejector pin marks on the inner face of each link. Obviously these will need filling, the way this was tackled was to first score each pin mark. This needed to be done because the plastic used by AFV Club has a nylon soapy feel to it. I thought

it best to key the surface to make sure the filler had something to grip onto. A small drop of filler was then spread over each mark using a No 15 scalpel blade, the filler was then left to dry before the laborious task of sanding each one flush could begin. With the model primed in Holt's grey acrylic automotive primer,

*"Cutting out that horrible nylon netting into the shape of basket mesh is not in my top one thousand list of fun modelling tasks"*

and checked for any stray blobs of glue etc, I was now sort of ready to start adding the actual camouflage colour. I built and painted this model before Lifecolor released their accurate Israeli colours. The actual colours used on the real thing seem to cause as much

debate as olive drab for US WWII vehicles or German armour yellow!

After much deliberation and studying the colour photos of IDF armour used in operation Peace for Galilee, the invasion of Lebanon in 1982 I decided to mix up Vallejo Model-Color medium grey 987 and Green-Grey 886 together 50/50.

This colour was sprayed over

the final tone will be quite different once all the weathering had been completed.

### FILTERS

At the time of building this model the buzzword was filters, I had heard so much about it I thought I would have to try it. Initially I thought it was the same as a

colourwash using oil paints but in actual fact it is a different process. Where a

colourwash is used to accentuate detail where as a filter using enamel paints changes the overall tone or hue of the base colour.

For my filter I chose to use Humbrol 187 and 66 thinned with Humbrol's own enamel thinner. I must say I was impressed with the

the entire model, then a couple of drops of white 951 added and this was then misted into the centre of each panel etc to help simulate the bleached and faded look I was after.

Once the basic colour was in place and I was happy with the approximate shade, bearing in mind







The larger boxes either side of the mantlet are actually smoke discharger boxes and not Blazer reactive armour panels. Each box contains ten smoke grenades that can be launched individually or in salvos.



Archer Transfer OIF coalition chevrons have been used to great effect conforming to the detail laden Blazer reactive armour panels with the aid of some waterslide decal setting solution.



The dusty flack jacket and tankers helmet are both included in the Legend Models Israeli Stowage Set. The dust effect was achieved by washing on Mig Production pigments mixed with Enamel thinners.



The AFV Club individual link tracks are a major improvement over the Italeri kit tracks. Note also the kit sprockets have had the missing mud clearing holes added.



Pin washes using cream and pale sand coloured paint have been used to accentuate the wealth of detail adorning the surfaces of the applique armour panels covering the mantlet.



More dust washes using Mig Productions pigments and enamel thinners were applied to the rest of the stowage. Once the thinner evaporated any excess pigment can be removed with a brush.



The air recognition panel was made from Duro Putty and painted with Vallejo Model Color fluorescent yellow and red, this helps add some much needed colour to a monotone vehicle.



The exhaust staining was correctly applied to only the righthand side of the engine grilles as this is the side the exhaust exits from - again Mig Productions Black Smoke was used for this.





way it worked and will probably use this technique again where the need arises. I suppose it could be said why not just paint the model in the correct tone in the first place?

For the decals I used a mix of Archer OIF coalition chevrons and some old dry-rub Israeli markings from Verlinden.

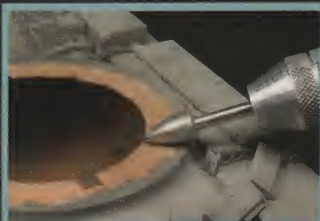
To paint the air recognition strip that runs the length of the main gun, I first painted the barrel white. Then by cutting a thin strip of Tamiya masking tape to the appropriate width laid it along the top of the gun and rubbed it firmly into place to prevent

paint bleeding underneath. The camouflage colour was then applied and the tape removed to leave a nice neat white stripe. With all of the markings in place I could start the weathering process using a combination of airbrushing colour washes and finally pastels. To start with a very thin mix of Tamiya Buff XF57 And Deck Tan XF55 I sprayed around detail and along one edge of panel lines and edges. This combined beige and light grey-based colour washes helped start to simulate the very fine powdery dust that gets everywhere.

## CONCLUSION

I thoroughly enjoyed building the M60 Blazer; admittedly this £15 kit did become a rather expensive project. But since I don't smoke, drink have a life or any friends I can afford to spend my money on my modelling projects!

The extras I used here really have made a genuine improvement and were worth every penny. ■



## Tech Tip!

Don't be frightened to use a larger grinding bit in a mini drill. This was far easier than using the more common small bits to remove the inaccurate raised lip on the turret ring.



Vallejo acrylics combined with their own thinners and water were used to weather the tracks without fear of solvent based washes attacking the plastic of the tracks and weakening the tiny connecting pins. Humbrol enamel paints and thinners were used for the 'filter' used to vary the tones of the camouflage grey used on the Magach.

## Modelspec

Italeri M60A1 Blazer

Kit No. 6391

### Sets used

Italeri M60A1 Blazer 6391

Barrel Depot M68E1 105mm gun with Thermal shield 35004

AFV Club M60 T142 track set 35010

Eduard M60 Blazer Etched Brass set

Blast Models IDF Tank Accessories BL35009K

Legend IDF Armour accessory set LF1054

### Materials

Duro Putty

### Paints used

Humbrol 187, Humbrol 66, Humbrol Enamel thinners

Vallejo Flat Earth 983, Medium Grey 987,

Green-Grey 886, White 951, Golden Brown 877

Bright Orange 851

Amarillo Fluorescent Yellow 730

Naranja Fluorescent Orange 733

### Reference

M60 Patton in action No23 Squadron/Signal

Publications ISBN 0-89747-176-8

Tanks Illustrated IDF Tanks No24 Modern Israeli

Tanks and Combat vehicles (OOP)

Tanks Illustrated IDF Tanks No3 Israeli Tanks and

Combat vehicles (OOP)

✓ Great subject matter.

✗ Pin marks in AFV Club tracks, Blazer armour blocks needed lots of adjusting to line up and fit onto turret sides.

### Available from

Italeri all good model shops

Blast Models from [www.afvmodeller.com](http://www.afvmodeller.com)

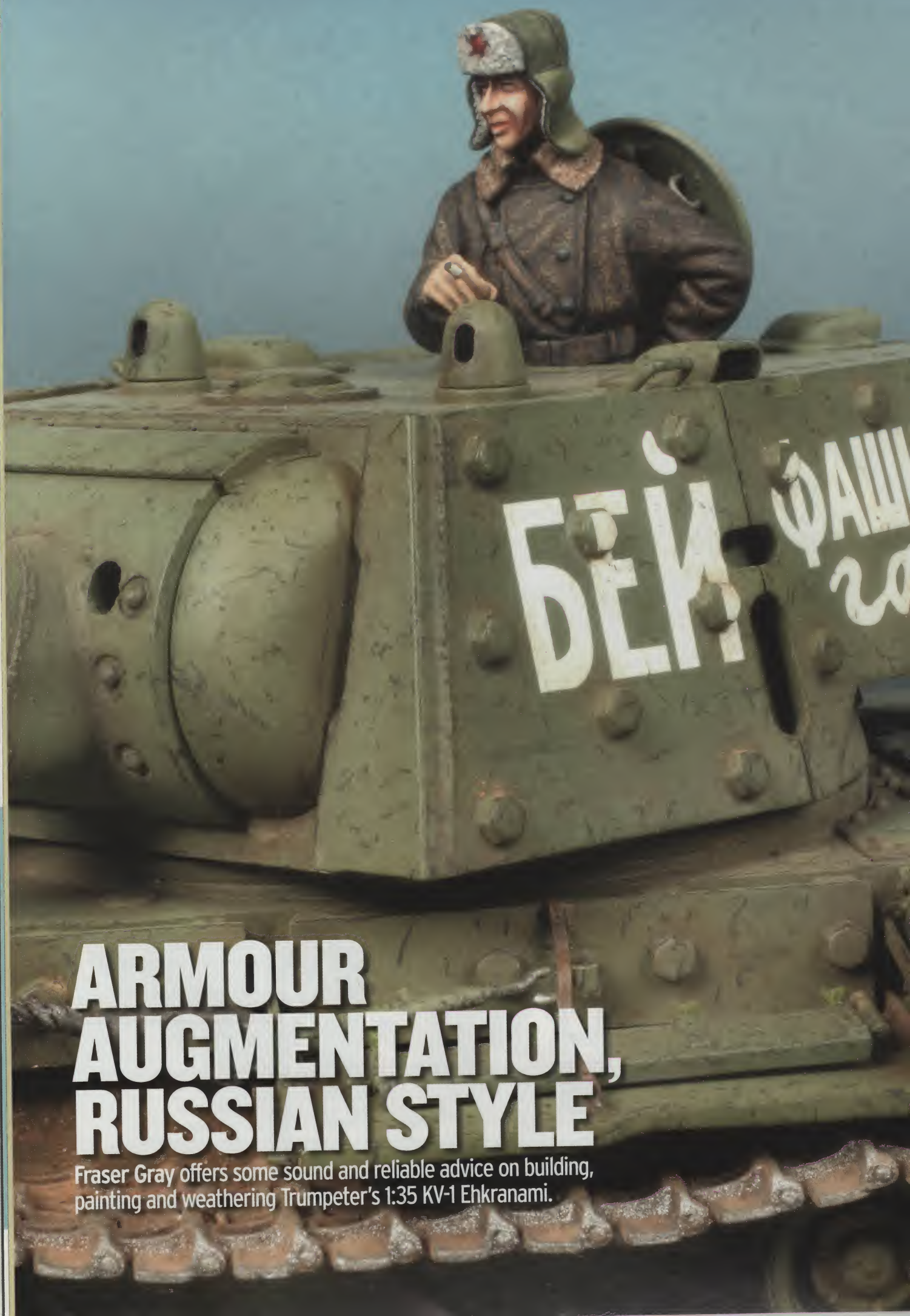
Legend from friendship Models

AFV Club from Hannants

Eduard brass from LSA models

Rating ●●●●●●●●○





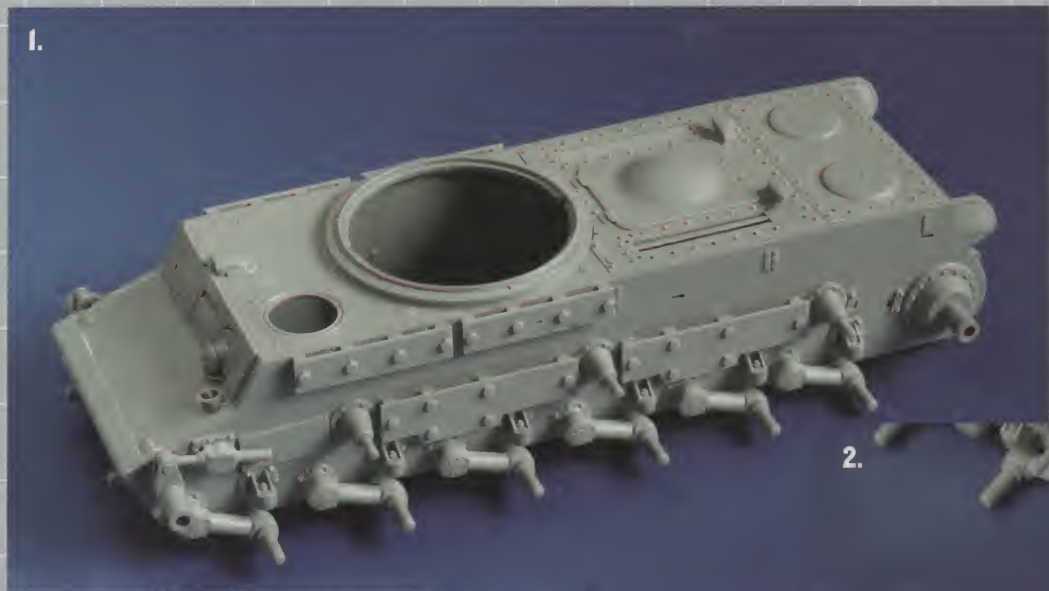
# ARMOUR AUGMENTATION, RUSSIAN STYLE

Fraser Gray offers some sound and reliable advice on building, painting and weathering Trumpeter's 1:35 KV-1 Ehkranami.





1.



1. The basic hull of the KV-1 is beginning to take shape. Trumpeter have designed the moulds for their KV series of kits on a modular principle to cover as many variants of the tank as possible.

2.

2. As a matter of personal choice, I always replace any injection moulded mesh screens with photo etched mesh. Here I have made a replacement for part C3, cut from a sheet of Eduard 00101 mesh, and a frame made from plastic card. It would have been great for the kit to have included a fret of photo-etch parts, which may have increased the price of the kit.

3.



3. The replacement screen is dry fitted to check for fit, and then secured into place with Cyanoacrylate adhesive, carefully applied with a cocktail stick.

4.



4. There are always items that need to be prepared for the next modelling session. There are some very prominent ejection pin marks on the underside of the track guards which have been filled with Revell Plasto modelling body putty. I recommend this product for filling small holes and blemishes.

5.



5. From the start I had decided to model a war weary and battered KV-1, with missing and damaged track guards to show off my replacement tracks. After consulting my reference books I removed the front sections of both of the kits track guards. Some photographs show part of the track guard support brackets still attached to the hull side after parting company with the guards.

**T**he KV-1 was developed from the Soviet Union's preoccupation with gigantic Multi-turreted tanks that resembled land warships. Zhosef Yakovlevitch Kotin was also an enthusiast of the multi-turreted design and produced a more streamlined concept, equipped with only two turrets. A model of the new tank, known as the SMK, was shown to Josef Stalin, who is reported to have broken a turret of Kotin's model and told him to design a single turreted tank. The redesigned

vehicle resembled a shortened single turreted version of the SMK. The new tank was named after the Soviet Marshal Kliment Y. Voroshilov.

An interesting feature of early version of the KV-1 are the road wheels. They were designed by Engineer Tseits. Instead of placing the rubber tyre on the outside of the wheel it is incorporated into the hub, allowing the steel portion of the wheel to be in contact with the track while the internal rubber portion absorbed any shock and was protected from direct wear,

from the tracks. The design was subsequently dropped by the Soviets, and replaced with all steel wheels, which could shatter following a heavy impact. The Germans were obviously impressed with Tseits' design and copied the wheel for use in the steel wheels of late production Tiger I, Panthers, Tiger IIs and the Jagdpanzer IV. The same wheel design was used by the British on the Conqueror heavy tank. The Soviets reintroduced Tseits' wheel design in the '60s, for use on the T-64 tank.

Trumpeter have produced

a version of the KV-1 that has been retro fitted with appliqué armour. This was because of misleading intelligence reports of the increasing threat of heavier gunned German anti-tank forces. Since the factory which produced the tank could not manufacture armour plate exceeding 100mm in thickness, they bolted on additional plates on to the turret and hull sides.

The KV-1 was a shock to the German forces. The standard vehicle was resistant to all calibre of anti-tank guns in the German





# Tech Guide - ARMOUR MODELLING TECHNIQUES

TRUMPETER 1:35 KV-1 EHKRANAMI • KIT NO.00357

6.



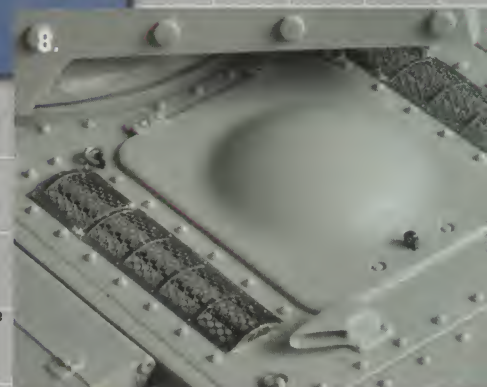
6. Parts M8 and M11 are assembled. Through checking my reference books and photographs, a prominent weld bead is missing. To add the weld bead detail, I used two thin strips of Tamiya Masking tape to protect the adjacent detail and act as a guide for the weld bead. The next stage is to fill the middle with Revell Plasto putty. While the putty was still wet and melting the plastic, I used the point of a 10a scalpel blade to sculpt the weld bead. When the putty had set, the tape is removed producing a neat weld bead.

7.



7. The air intakes on the kit are detailed with individual louvers and it is a shame to cover them up with parts D9. The integrally moulded screen is far from realistic. After a visit to the loft, I found an Eastern Express SU-152 and in the box I found a set of Eduard photo etch intake screens which fortunately fitted the Trumpeter kit.

8.



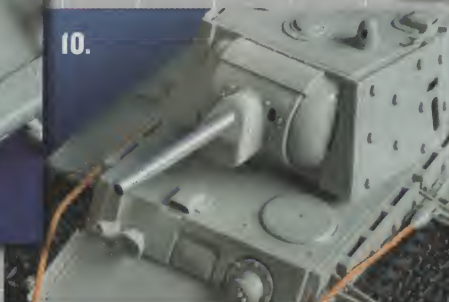
8. The Eduard screens are added to the engine deck, and look great, showing the louvers detail inside the engine bay. My photographic reference show the lifting lugs were each equipped with a lifting ring. I replicated this missing feature by twisting wire around a suitably sized drill. The rings were then cut and attached to the model with cyanoacrylate adhesive. I glued some rings resting in a different direction to add interest. The lug on the far left has been carved in black plastic, because I lost one of the kit lugs (A28) to the carpet devil!

9.



9. Some minor improvements can be made to the klaxon and head lamp. I replaced part D16 by stretching some thick plastic tubing over a candle until it was the same bore as the kits part. This part was in fact a pipe protecting the electrical conduit which I made from some fuse wire. The electrical lead attaches into the back of the klaxon and the n to the back of the lamp. I didn't tempt fate by attaching delicate items such as the bow machine gun, these items can be easily broken and lost.

10.



10. The turret was quite straight forward to assembled, although the applique armour required trimming the support brackets of parts N3 and N4 to align with parts N12 and N13. I cleaned up the kit gun tube, and was not satisfied with the results, so I replaced it with a turned aluminium barrel 35L-43 from the Aber range.

11.



11. A close up of the track guard support brackets in position on the model. For the purpose of clarity I have temporary fitted Trumpeter's vinyl tracks which I discarded and replaced with a set from the Friulmodel range of individual white metal links.

12.



12. One of the most attractive features of the KV-1 is the heavy towing cables. The cables are attached to the hull by adjustable hooks part D7. Unfortunately the connecting lug and hooks have been moulded as one item and spoils the appearance. I decided to separate the items. A replacement lug was made from plastic card. I first drilled a suitably sized hole into the plastic card and the cut the lug out. this avoids stressing the plastic with the drill bit and ensures the hole is in the correct position.

◀ arsenal, except the 88mm flak gun. The KV-1 was mechanically unreliable and slow. This coupled with poor optical sights lead to the tanks replacement by the T-34, which was popular with the Soviet tank crews. Kotin further developed his design of the the KV-1 to produce the KV-85, which was a bridging design that lead to the development of Kotin's masterpiece the JS-2. The JS-2 eventually brought The Great Patriotic War (as the Soviets called WW2) to a close, in the streets of Berlin.

## TRUMPETER'S KV-1 EHKRANAMI

The attention to detail throughout this kit is first class. Even in areas that are eventual hidden or obscured from close inspection, such as the air intakes and drive sprocket which feature bolt head detail on the inside. The kit is supplied with a choice of open or closed engine deck hatches and crew entry hatches, which gives those who enjoy detailing their models plenty to do. This feature also makes Trumpeter's kits an attractive opportunity for the after market specialists. I will expect to

see interior detail and engine bay sets to become available.

The modular and clever design of the sprues means we can expect many more KV-1 kits to become available, an SU-152 would be great. For those who wish an easy build over a course of a weekend, will be delighted with Trumpeter's KV-1 model. The kit is supplies with a reasonable set of one piece vinyl tracks and a relatively easy to assemble 'link & length' set. ■





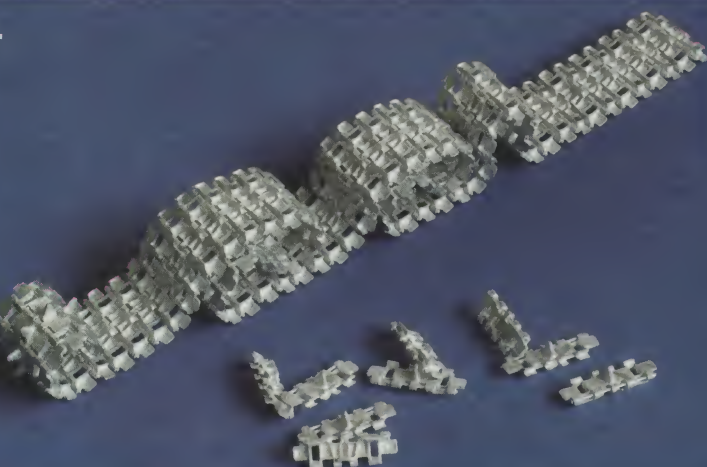
13.

13. You can never have too much photographic reference when building a model. My photographs show that applique armour panels part M1 and M3, were attached to the hull sides with a prominent weld seam. I used a different technique to reproduce this effect, than I had used on the gun housing. I glued lengths of stretched sprue that followed the course of the weld bead.



14.

14. Part A25, is a poor representation of the retaining cable for the engine hatch. The crude hook is over scale. I scratch built a replacement hook and retaining eye from plastic card. The cable was made from fuse wire. The wire strands were anchored in a vice, and the other end in a pin-vice. By carefully turning the pin-vice the wires are gradually and evenly twisted together to give a good scale representation of the cable.



15.

15. I replaced the 'link & length' tracks with a set from Friulmodel. I found them difficult to assembled, and lost a number of links when the clasps fractured. I understand that the company now uses a separate pin to link the track plates together, just like the real tank.



17.



16.

16 & 17. The completed model. I used a soldering iron, held beneath the track guards to soften the plastic. When the plastic is pliable it can be safely distorted with the fingers. It is often better to apply heat several times, and try to avoid a melted look. The aim is to give the angular appearance of crushed sheet metal. I have fitted the vinyl tracks to the model for the purpose of illustration, because I did not wish to cause any further damage to the Friulmodel items which are fragile. When the model is painted, I discarded the vinyl tracks. The link and length tracks are good, and I will keep them in scrap box, for perhaps use on my Eastern Express SU-152, nothing is wasted!





## PAINTING TRUMPETER'S KV-1 s



18. The model was now striped down and prepared for undercoating and painting. The first stage is to wash all the components in a bowl of water with some detergent. This removes any debris and provides a grease free surface for the primer to cover. If grease is left on the model, the primer could detach and spoil the painted surface, by revealing the underlying plastic.



19. Small items such as the wheels are attached to waste cardboard with double sided tape, in preparation for a coat of Halfords automotive primer. When the primer is touch dry the wheels can be turned over and the back of the wheel primed.



20. Because of the noxious fumes I prime my models in the garage, and always wear a particulate face mask when using the airbrush or aerosols. On cold winter evenings, I have found that the efficacy of the aerosol primer can be improved by immersing a quarter of the can in a bowl of boiled water. Again, take precautions not to scald your self, and tell the household, to avoid any accidents.



22. Now the fun stage of airbrushing can begin! To break up the monotone appearance of the green the upper surfaces that would be subjected to bleaching by the sun, are airbrushed a lighter tone by introducing more dark yellow into the basic green mix. Areas can also be darkened by adding a dab of Tamiya XF-51 Khaki Drab. Generally speaking, light vertical passes of the airbrush are made to all the vertical surfaces of the model to give it a weathered effect.



21. The first coat of 'Russian Green' has been applied with my air brush. The colour mix was my own recipe, mixed from H340 Field Green FS 34097 from the Gunze Sangyo Aqueous range of paints, which I purchased from a model shop 'Bargain Bin', and Tamiya XF60 Dark Yellow. The concoction was thinned with Tamiya X20A Thinner, rather than using water, and airbrushed well. If you choose to mix your own colour always produce more than you think you will need. If you damage the paint work, and have used up the original batch, it will be almost impossible to get an exact match. I store my colour mixes in old Tamiya paint jars.



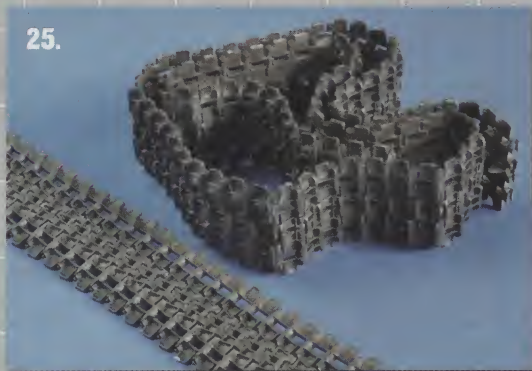
23. In the past couple of years there seems to have been an expansion in the variety of different painting and finishing products. I decided to have a go of the various weathering powders that have become available on the market. To replicate the wear on the models drive chain I used CMK Star Dust metallic pigment MD54 Aluminium. I decanted a small amount of the pigment onto a dish and applied the powder to the wheels using my finger. The surplus was rubbed away to reveal a very convincing metallic appearance.

24. The return rollers were attached to cocktail sticks with Blu-Tak and the rubber tyres painted with Tamiya XF-63 German Grey. I rested my hand with a paint brush on the desk and turned the cocktail stick against the brush to produce a neat finish.





## PAINTING THE TRACKS



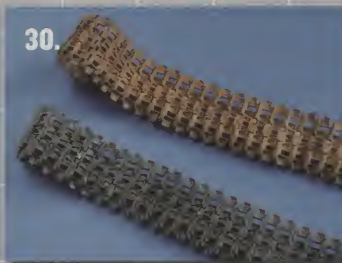
25. After priming the white metal tracks with primer, I airbrushed them a dark brown, mixed from Tamiya Hull Red XF-9 and Tamiya Black XF-1. I made several light passes along the tracks making sure to get the paint into all the nooks.



27. The entire model and all the sub assemblies are given a protective coat of Johnson Wax Klear floor polish. This protects the paint from handling damage and provides a smooth surface to prevent the decals from silvering.



28 & 29. Another new product I have used on my KV-1 model is part of MIG weathering powders range. First I gave the track I was working on a coat of Johnson Wax Klear floor polish. While the varnish was still wet I used a large brush to apply MIG Europe Dust P028. weathering powders, in a dabbing motion. When using large quantities of weathering powders it is best to apply them in the garage, or extensively cover the work surface, the powder gets everywhere!



30. The powder gives the realistic appearance of dust and mud encrusted tracks, in comparison to the untreated tracks, which are still in their dark brown undercoat.



31. To replicate the wear from the road wheels steel tyres I used a gun metal mix made from Humbrol Enamels Silver II and Matt Black. I used the drive sprocket and one of the road wheels to mark out the drive trains contact points, I then applied my gun metal mix using the dry brush technique. When I had finished I dry brushed the outer shoes that come into contact with the ground. This produced a pleasing contrast between the powdery earth colour of the track, and the burnished highlights of the gun metal paint.

## APPLYING THE TURRET DECALS



32. I have always found the positioning of decals difficult, and I was particularly apprehensive at applying the Cyrillic script slogan to the turret sides. I found Trumpeter's decal placement profiles confusing because they are different to the box top artwork and the photographs of the assembled model on the box side.



33. I tackled the most difficult side of the turret markings first. The backing film has to be trimmed and holes cut into the decal to allow the bolt heads through the decal. The removed portions were saved so they could be added to the bolt heads. the most difficult part was placing parts of the decal through the slot in the turret side for the pistol port. I had to use Micro Sol setting solution to get the decal to conform to the domed cover of the pistol port cover. The other side of the turret was comparatively easy, as the slogan breaks either side of the pistol port aperture.



34. I was very pleased when I had successfully applied the decals which was like trying to paint through a letter box! I then retouched the decal with white paint where necessary, and sealed my work with another coat of Johnson Wax Klear floor polish applied through the airbrush.

26.



26. All the major sub assemblies of the model have now been painted. I have painted the two rear mud scrappers as separate assemblies as their location would have prevented me painting the drive sprockets as a separate item. The exhaust stacks have been painted a dark rust colour and other details such as the engine bay hatch retaining cable picked out in the appropriate colours.





## WEATHERING THE MODEL



**35.** Before starting the weathering stage, it is vital that the entire model is sealed with a coat of Johnson Wax Klear floor polish. If any areas of unsealed paint are exposed to a white spirit based wash, it will attack and blister the paint work. White spirit will also attack exposed plastic and it is able to seep into an imperfectly glued joint, and cause the de-constructing of your model! I used a wash of white spirit with a small quantity of Rowney Artists oil paint 251 Sepia.



**36.** The completed Model. The various scratches and abrasions were added with a rust coloured blend of Humbrol 160 red brown and 33 black. I concentrated the chipping around the various crew entry hatches and engine access hatch. The model has a very patchy appearance at this stage. To unify the various weathering techniques I airbrushed the model with a coat of Poly Scale Flat Finish. Further applications of MIG weathering powders were added around the tank, concentrating the application in areas where mud and dust would have been thrown up by the tracks.



### CONCLUSION

The completed model. The kit is cleverly produced so modellers can look forward to more variants of the Soviet Heavy tank. I would have liked to have seen decals provide for alternatively marked vehicles, and an etch set for the engine air intakes, but this may have increased the price, and have been of little interest to the mass market. The kit is a bargain at approximately half the price of a similarly sized kit from their nearest competitors. Apart from

the application of the turret decals, there were no pit falls encountered during construction, and I soon had a great model to add to my collection of Soviet WW2 armour. Priced £11.95 the kit is an absolute bargain! I would like to thank Bruce Crosby for his help with this project and for supplying the three colour profiles of the KV-1. Bruce has a range armoured vehicle prints for sale, and can be contacted at; [bruce@dwccrosby.freeseve.co.uk](mailto:bruce@dwccrosby.freeseve.co.uk). ■

### Tech Tip!

Obtaining a neat paint job on periscope glass that are deep within a rain guard can be very difficult. I use strips of the black border that frames discarded 35mm transparency film. Thin strips are cut with a new scapel blade and fixed into place with a small dab of Micro Kristal Klear or PVA wood glue. The highly reflective emulsion provides a good representation for the periscope glass.

### Modelspec

1:35 Trumpeter WW2 KV-1's Ehkranami Kit No.00357

#### Materials

Injection moulded grey coloured styrene, Link and length and one-piece vinyl tracks, waterslde decals, and set of colour 4 elevations profile.

#### Paints & Pigments used

Gunze Sangyo H340 Field Green, Tamiya Acrylics, XF-60 Dark Yellow, Tamiya Acrylics Khaki Drab XF-51, Tamiya Acrylics, XF-1 and Tamiya X-20A Thinner. Humbrol Enamels Red Brown 160 and Humbrol Enamels 33 Black. Poly Scale Flat Finish. Johnson Wax Klear floor polish. Rowney Artists Oil Colour Series B Sepia 251. CMK Star Dust Metallic Pigments Aluminium MD 54. MIG Productions Pigment Europe Dust P028.

#### Accessories used

Eduard Etch Brass set 35 344 KV-14/SU-152 which I used for the air intake screens. There is now a dedicated set, designed to fit the Trumpeter kits available from the company. Friulmodel white metal tracks. I used the old 'clasp' set. There is now an improved 'pin' version available from the company. Aber 351-43 Russian 76,2 mm F-32 tank Barrel for KV-1 early model 1941.

#### References used

KW vol 1 Maksym Kolmyjec published by Wydawnictwo Militaria ISBN83-7219-142-5.  
Suomalaiset Panssarivaunut by Esa Muikko & Jukka Purhonen. Published by APALI ISBN 952-5026-09-4.  
Russian Tanks and Armoured Vehicles 1917-1945. Wolfgang Fleischer. Published by Schiffer Military History Book ISBN 0-7643-0913-7.  
Preserved Tanks In Russia by Trevor Larkum & Jim Kinnear. ISBN 0-9523293-4-4.  
The Soviet Armour Camouflage and Insignia 1930-1945 No 5. by Maksym Kolmyjec published by M Hobby/Armada (No ISBN number).

- ✓ A cleverly designed model that builds quickly into an accurate model of the KV-1. The kits modular design means there are probably more variations to come. The kit is inexpensive for such a large model, and is almost half the price of kits produced by Trumpeters nearest rival. Also I have enjoyed reading the historical notes on the KV-1 series printed on the box lid sides!
- ✗ A little work was required to get the turret appliqué to fit. The wheels, and especially the idlers are a very tight fit. A coat of primer on the suspension arms makes them difficult to fit. Barely sufficient brass wire for the tow cable. Decals for only one tank.

#### Available from

KV-1 and Eduard Etch Brass: [www.isamodels.co.uk](http://www.isamodels.co.uk)  
Aber 351-43 Russian 76,2 mm F-32 tank Barrel for KV-1 early model 1941: [www.historex-agents.co.uk](http://www.historex-agents.co.uk)

Rating ●●●●●○○○









# TAKING SOME FLAK

Andy King for his first article for MMI shows what can be done with a rather basic kit with the help of some inexpensive detailing.

**T**he Flakpanzer 38t Ausf L came about as a makeshift vehicle while the 3.7cm Flakpanzer IV (Ostwind) was being developed, due to the urgent need to have a self propelled AA vehicle for the panzer divisions. Therefore the obsolete Pz.Kpfw 38t chassis was chosen, as it was readily available. Design started in October 1943 and production began in December of that year with 150 being ordered, however it became clear that the

2cm Flak 38 wasn't a powerful enough weapon and the last ten in the series were converted to the self-propelled Sig 33/2 as the more heavily armed Flakpanzer IV was now coming into production.

The Flakpanzer 38 didn't prove very popular with the crews either. Because of the need to fold down the upper part of the fighting compartment when in combat, it left them very exposed to enemy action. The vehicle had a crew of four and weighed in at 9.8 tons.

Deliveries began to arrive with the units in January 1944 and the majority saw service with the panzer divisions in Normandy, some also seeing action during the Ardennes offensive during the winter of 44.

## THE MODEL

Inspiration to build this particular vehicle came about after looking through my stash of magazine articles. After reading a piece in the April/May 2002 edition

of Tamiya Model Magazine in which one of my favourite armour modellers, Angus Creighton, converts the Tamiya Marder IIIM I fancied having a go myself. The lines of the vehicle appealed to me but I was definitely not going to the lengths that Angus did to make his model!

However not long after the article appeared (as is so often the case) Alan Hobbies of Russia produced a kit of the very same vehicle.



My Good friend Malc Ireson had bought me one for my 40th birthday which I had stashed in the loft with the others on the to do list, So it was time to go up into the loft and dig it out armed with my new found enthusiasm. Opening the box and examining the contents it's apparent there's not many parts; three sprues in a medium grey plastic; four in a light grey plastic for the wheels and individual track links, a small etched metal toolbox and a small decal sheet.

The standard of moulding is reminiscent of early Italeri kits with sink and ejection pin marks in awkward places although the plastic is not too soft to work with. Ok so it's not up to the standard of the latest injection moulded kits but it's a good base to work on. I also purchased the Eduard etch set no; 35627 as it would add a lot of refinement to the basic kit.

### CONSTRUCTION

This starts with the construction of the basic hull, although to get a good fit between the hull front and hull top the location strips on the inner hull sides will also need to be removed. Before gluing the hull top it would be a good idea to remove the driver's position, because on the Flakpanzer a later type was used which is more rounded. I didn't at this stage and had a more difficult job later. The new drivers position was made up from layers of 30 thou plastic sheet glued together, left to dry and then sanded to achieve the correct rounded profile. After which it was fixed to the upper hull then

filled and sanded to blend it all in. When sanding was complete the driver's hatch was scribed on with a compass cutter and a touch of liquid glue run around it to remove any swarf.

Also on the upper hull a couple of holes need to be filled and sanded that relate to the Grille M version (which is what this kit is based on). One is the rectangular hole just behind and to the left of the driver's position and the other is what looks like a place for an aerial further to the left. Also the raised detail surrounding these holes needs to be removed too. Further back near the fighting compartment there is a triangular hole that also need to be filled at this stage, otherwise it's a tricky place to get to later on. Before gluing the hull top you also need to blank off the air-cooling aperture on the right hand side of the hull and paint black to prevent a see-through effect. After the basic hull is glued together any gaps were filled and sanded. Don't worry about removing the rivet detail as the fun bit starts here! Read on...

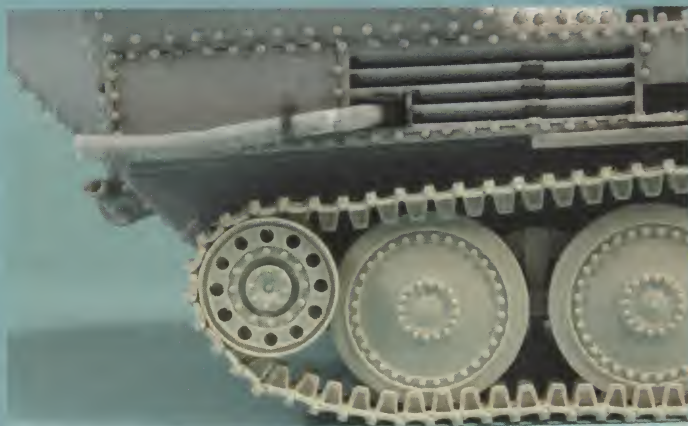
Ok so far so good, however a feature of the Flakpanzer (and all 38t chassis's) is the riveted construction as opposed to welded. The ones on the kit in my opinion are too small and not enough of them, at this stage I knew I was going to need more. There are a couple of ways to make rivets, either with a punch and die set or buying commercially available ones such as those from Grandt Line etc. Not having any of these resources to hand I resorted to making them myself. This was

achieved with drilling a shallow hole into a block of aluminium that was kicking around the shed. The hole was cut out using a round 1mm dentist's burr. After which it was a case of gently melting the end of lengths of sprue and then pushing them into the hole. You then cut the newly formed rivet off the sprue, place on a small sheet of white paper or double sided sticky tape (so you can find them again) and then repeat about 500 times... Easy, Using reference photo's you then mark out where the rivets need to go and then glue them to the hull. Fortunately on the rear of the hull, after you have removed the moulded rivets they leave a mark where they once were so you can go by that.

So, finishing with the rivets for now it's time for a quiet lie down..... To move on to the rest of the build. After bending the track guards a bit in hot water to achieve a used and battered look these were fixed to the hull. The rest of the build is pretty straightforward and was done in conjunction with the Eduard etch set, replacing or refining the kit parts as shown. Pin marks were filled and sanded on the fold-down portions of the fighting compartment and the rivet detail on these parts was kept as I felt it looked OK. The floor on the inside is provided by Eduard and is easy enough to bend and fit, although the base for the Flak 38 ▶







The author modified the rear idlers from the early pattern which featured teardrop shaped holes to the later pattern with the round style holes.



Layers of 30thou plastic card were glued together then sanded to shape to form the later style cast drivers compartment cover. The hatch halves were scribed using a compass cutter.



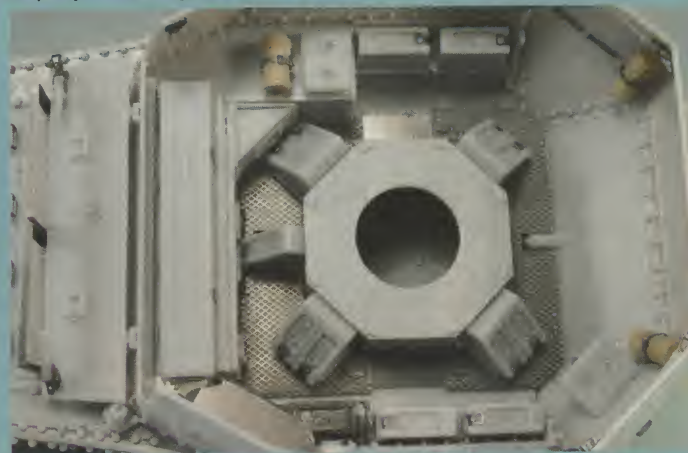
Note how the author has added some dents and creasing to the exhaust muffler, achieved using a round headed file and fine grade wet and dry abrasive paper.



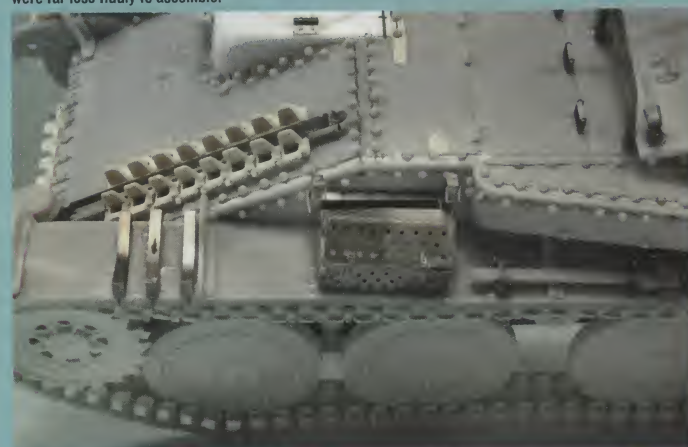
The badly damaged exhaust was inspired by a photo of a real Flakpanzer 38T whose exhaust had been completely severed leaving the muffler to serve no purpose whatsoever.



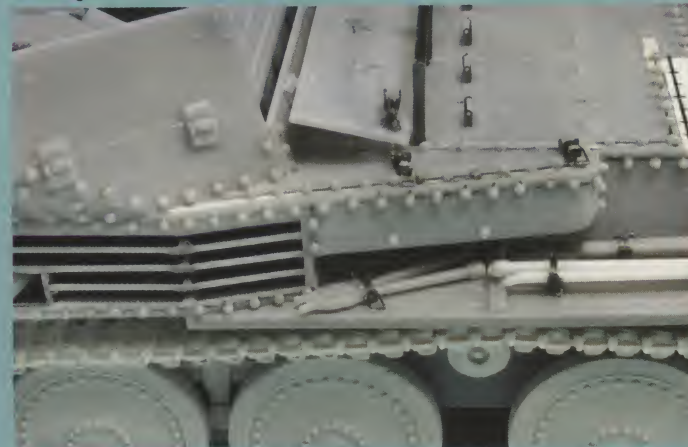
Although Eduard supplied etched brass ammo box racks, the author chose to use the kit parts as they were far less fiddly to assemble!



The kit gas mask holders were swapped with items from the spares box, in this case from a Tamiya German figure set.

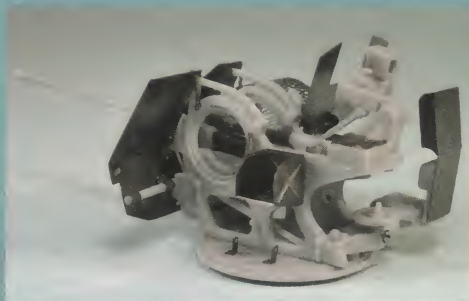


The etched brass tool box supplied with the Alan kit was substituted with the Eduard one then bashed about a bit to simulate some minor battle damage.



Some of the 500 or so rivets that the author made can be seen in this shot. They were all made by softening plastic rod and forcing the end into a pre-drilled hole in a scrap block of aluminium that acted as a die.





Eduard's etched brass set for the Flakpanzer 38T 35-627 proved invaluable for updating this rather basic kit. One area in particular that was greatly improved was the Flak gun itself, including scale thickness shields and the author's favourite part, the mesh basket to catch the spent cases ejected from the gun.

will require some surgery to make it fit into the hole. The Eduard instructions are clear on this point though. The ammo racks on the inside are provided on the etch set but these were very fiddly to make and I ended up using the kit supplied parts. The gas mask containers were replaced with Tamiya items from the spares box.

The Flak 38 in the kit is basic and you may want to replace it with the recent Tristar or Dragon release. The barrel could be replaced with an aluminium turned item too if you wish, such as those from Aber or Schatton Modellbau, however I didn't have any of these in the pile so I kept the kit item, although I might replace it at some future point. This area is where the Eduard set really comes into effect. The etch set provides new gun shields and various fittings but the star item is the empty shell case basket that features a nice woven netting effect, it is however really fiddly to put together but definitely worth the hassle. The etch set also provides a new flash suppressor but I chose not to use it as it didn't quite fit and instead drilled out the end of the kit barrel.

Onto the running gear, these parts had the worst sink marks in the kit. Fortunately I was able to sand these out using a fairly coarse wet and dry paper. The next thing to do was to alter the rear idler wheel holes from the earlier teardrop shape to the later round type. This was easily done with a round file.

The tracks though, in my opinion, are quite acceptable and require 78 links to make up

each run. I usually like to make the tracks separately and fix after painting but after test fitting the track to the drive sprocket I decided to glue the wheels and tracks together and paint round them. This is due to the tight fit of the tracks on the sprocket. Another tip I would suggest here would be to reduce the width of the sprocket slightly.

The last part of the construction is to put the detail items on, such as the tools, clamps etc. The kit supplied shovel was replaced with the etch set item with the handle being made from plastic rod, also the crow bar that sits alongside the shovel was fashioned from rod too. The kit's etched toolbox on the left fender was discarded in favour of the Eduard one. After carefully bending it to the correct shape and attaching it to the model, I then proceeded to inflict a bit of battle damage to it! Other parts such as the wooden block and jack were left off with just the empty clamps glued in place. Finally the exhaust was test fitted but after being inspired by a photo of a Flakpanzer to depict it on my model. The exhaust was glued together, left to dry then attacked with a round file to simulate dents and the ends hollowed out with a drill. Also the pipe was cut to simulate a badly damaged portion being cut off completely by the crew, a portion being left hanging on the side.

Construction complete, now for the best bit - the painting and weathering!

## PAINTING

The first thing to do is to give the model a wash in warm water with a drop of detergent to remove any grease and dust, rinse it off and leave to dry somewhere warm for a couple of days.

A couple of coats of primer are then applied. This is essential due to the large amount of etch metal used on the model; it also acts as a good base for the topcoat of paint. For priming I use ordinary white acrylic automotive primer spray and the coats built up in stages. This has to be done outside, as the odour is quite powerful.

The Flakpanzer 38 first appeared December 1943 and delivered to the panzer divisions in 1944 so a base coat of Dark Yellow should be applied, with Red Brown and Green used for the camouflage if you so desire. To start with I airbrushed Tamiya's XF60 Dark Yellow as a base. Once dry (which isn't long with Tamiya paint) I then added a couple of drops of XF15 Flesh and gently highlighted areas in between panels to give a nice contrast. Time for the camouflage pattern now, for this an irregular pattern was applied with a fine airbrush (Badger 100) using XF58 Olive Green but with

a few drops of XF3 Yellow added, just to lighten it a bit. Tamiya XF64 Red Brown was used for the, er, red brown camo.

With the paint applied and left to dry for a day or so I airbrushed a couple of coats of Tamiya X22 Clear. The reason I apply gloss varnish is that for the markings I used a mixture of Archer Decals dry-rub transfers and kit supplied waterslide decals and these work best on a gloss finish. To help with adhesion of waterslide decals a drop of Johnson's Klear (or Future as it is known in the USA) is applied to the area beforehand where the decal is to be placed. This eliminates the air bubbles that you can sometimes get under a decal and is the cause of 'silvering'. After the decals are in place and dried a further coat of gloss varnish is applied to seal the decals in and left to cure for 24 hours or so. After which it's onto the weathering...

## WEATHERING

For me this is the most satisfying part of modelling. This is where you can also make or break a model, either by overdoing it (absolutely caked in filth) or not doing enough (straight out of the factory). First thing I do is to spray a mix of XF52 and XF1 black around the lower hull, running gear







Due to the large amount of brass added to the basic kit the author added a couple of coats of automotive acrylic white primer in preparation for the model paints.



Tamiya XF60 Dark Yellow was used for the initial base colour, and small amounts of flesh and white were then added to the base Dark Yellow to add some contrast to the larger panels etc..

and tracks and just let it drift up onto the upper hull sides slightly. Next is to lightly spray a well-thinned coat of XF57 buff over the same area to simulate a dusty finish, again letting it drift over the upper surfaces slightly.

I then apply a thin wash of sepia oil paint over the entire model to tone down the brightness of the basic colours. A slightly thicker pin-wash is then used with a fine brush around the details to make them stand out a bit. After the washes are dry a small amount of yellow-ochre oil paint is dry-brushed over the high points of the model, I used yellow ochre, as it's a close match to the Tamiya Dark Yellow base

colour. Because oil paint takes a while to dry I now leave the model for about a week, preferably in a dust free environment, otherwise dust can and will stick to the slow drying oil paint.

OK one week later! The model is dry enough for the next process. To simulate the filth that collects in the corners I use black pastel chalk ground into a powder. Using an old but fine 000 brush this is brushed into all the nooks and crannies around the vehicle. Paint chips are done with a very fine brush and Vallejo German Camo Black Brown. I used this range of paints for the first time recently and have been very impressed with

the results so far.

Final details are then painted, such as on-vehicle equipment, personal gear etc., then an application of Mig productions European Earth pigment is applied to the lower hull and tracks. The tyres receive some black pastel chalk on the top of the tread to simulate the tyre scrubbing against the tracks. The tracks themselves are treated to various shades of brown pastel chalk and more Mig Powder, and then rubbed over with ground graphite on the tip of my finger. The aerial is made from stretched sprue and attached, along with various items of stowage from the spares box and its job done!

## CONCLUSION

Although the kit isn't 'state-of-the-art' it is, as I mentioned earlier, a good solid base to work on plus it's the only game in town in this scale so far. With this kit (as with any other for that matter) you could literally go to town on it with all the etched stuff, aluminium barrels, tracks etc., that's currently available and turn it into a real showstopper. However at the time I didn't have the funds for all the replacement goodies hence I ended up just using the one Eduard set. The smaller decals in the kit were quite thin and usable unfortunately the larger ones broke up on application. The 12th SS Panzer Division markings came from an Archer Decals sheet.

I must say that if, like me, you are working on a limited budget at the very least try and get hold of this etch set as it does improve an otherwise basic kit, plus that shell basket is really nice. In the end I'm quite happy with the model, I hope you like it too! ■







The great thing with building open topped vehicles is that they have lots of potential for cluttering up with personal items. The author has achieved this perfectly with his model.



#### MEET THE AUTHOR

**Andy King** Cheshire, England  
Hi, my name is Andy King and I've been modelling since the age of 8 when my eldest brother gave me a couple of models to build whilst I was recuperating after an accident. After a successful first model of a Revell 1:72 Fw 190 painted in Gloss Blue and real sand for the camouflage the modelling bug started to bite and I've never really stopped since, probably building everything that was in the Airfix catalogues at the time!

I had a spell of armour modelling initially then concentrated mainly on aircraft for a long time but after reading Tony Greenland's book on Panzer Modelling, seeing the great work of my good friend Malc Ireson and the newer stuff that Tamiya and Dragon were releasing, plus all the resin and etched goodies available it gave me a taste for armour kits again. Recently with my modelling skills improving and the advent of digital photography I began posting my work on a couple of websites to which I've had favourable responses so to stick my neck out even further here it is, my first magazine article! I Hoped you liked it! ■

## Modelspec

Alan Hobbies 1:35 Flakpanzer Gepard 38t

Kit No. ALAN 3518

### Materials

Injection moulded grey styrene; Photo-etch metal;  
Light-grey individual moulded styrene track links;  
Waterslide decals

### Paints used

Halford's White acrylic automotive primer; Tamiya XF1 Black, XF3 Yellow, XF15 Flat Flesh, XF52 Flat Earth, XF57 Buff, XF58 Olive Green, XF60 Dark Yellow, XF64 Red Brown, X22 Clear; Vallejo 70822 German Cam Black Brown; Winsor And Newton Sepia oil paint, Yellow Ochre Oil Paint; Johnsons Klear

### Accessories used

Eduard 35-627 Flakpanzer 38 (Gepard) Etch set

### References

Encyclopedia of German Tanks of WW2; Peter Chamberlain and Hilary Doyle; ISBN 1-85409-518-8  
Armour in Focus; Flakpanzer 38(t); Janusz Ledwoch; Wydawnictwo Militaria ISBN 83-7219-026-7  
German 20mm Flak in WW2; Werner Muller; Schiffer Military/Aviation History ISBN 0-88740-758-7  
Tamiya Model Magazine International; April/May 2002 Edition

- ✓ Only manufacturer to kit this vehicle in 1:35;  
Reasonably accurate outline; Useable individual track links.
- ✗ Very noticeable sink marks on running gear;  
Instructions not too clear in places; early style driver's position.

### Available from

www.isamodels.com

Rating ●●●●●○○○



# ★ SHERMAN M-4 ★

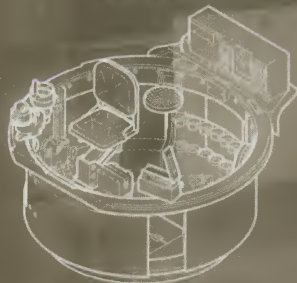
## highly detailed sets

### interior set

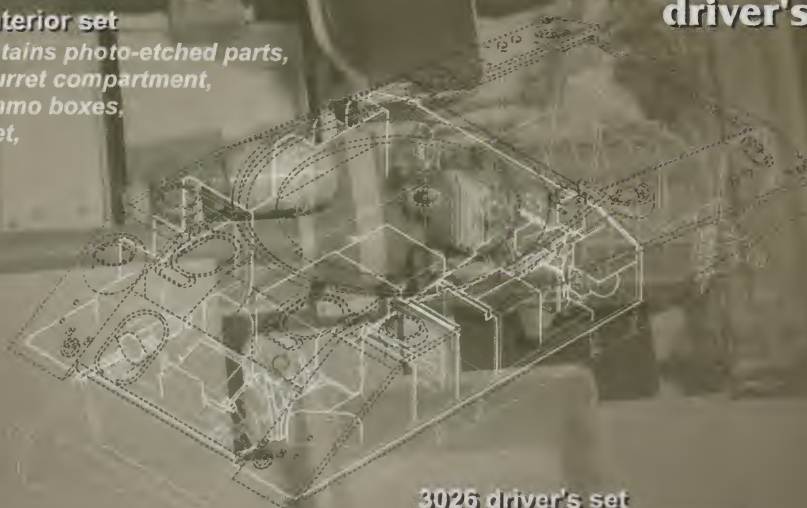


#### 3027 Interior set

Set contains photo-etched parts, detail turret compartment, gun, ammo boxes, radio set, floor)



### driver's set



#### 3026 driver's set

Set contains photo-etched parts, highly detailed driver's compartment, gun, ammo boxes, seats, radio set, floor)

1/35  
SCALE

for TAMIYA / DRAGON kit



Mezilesí 718, 193 00 Praha 9 Czech Republic, [www.cmkkits.com](http://www.cmkkits.com)

U.K. source: HANNANT'S, GERMANY source: Aeromodel, [mail@aeromodel.de](mailto:mail@aeromodel.de), [www.aeromodel.de](http://www.aeromodel.de), [www.moduni.de](http://www.moduni.de)





Due to the large amount of brass added to the basic kit the author added a couple of coats of automotive acrylic white primer in preparation for the model paints.



Tamiya XF60 Dark Yellow was used for the initial base colour, and small amounts of flesh and white were then added to the base Dark Yellow to add some contrast to the larger panels etc..

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Although the kit isn't 'state-of-the-art' it is, as I mentioned earlier, a good solid base to work on plus it's the only game in town in this scale so far. With this kit (as with any other for that matter) you could literally go to town on it with all the etched stuff, aluminium barrels, tracks etc., that's currently available and turn it into a real showstopper. However at the time I didn't have the funds for all the replacement goodies hence I ended up just using the one Eduard set. The smaller decals in the kit were quite thin and usable unfortunately the larger ones broke up on application. The 12th SS Panzer Division markings came from an Archer Decals sheet.

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# STALKING TIGER

Pete Usher tackles his latest Dragon WWII German project.

**A**s WW2 progressed more and more superheavy weight tanks came out of German factories. The Jagdtiger or 'Hunting Tiger' was at the top of the food chain on the battlefield. The primary role was to ambush and destroy enemy tanks from a static position - it's basically a bunker on tracks. With angled frontal armour of 200mm thick and a huge 128mm main gun you can see why it caused lots of problems when encountered by the Allies closing in on the Third Reich. But as with most of the German heavy tanks they were very slow unreliable and only appeared in very limited numbers to have any real affect on the final outcome.

## IN THE BOX

As I mentioned above the Jagdtiger is a bunker on tracks. Apart from a few tools, the exterior is quite bare, so compared to the other Dragon kits I've been building (ie; Tiger I and Panzer IV) this beast was going to be a walk in the park, having said that Dragon still supply a box bursting at the seams. 11 grey plastic sprues, one photo-etched engine grill set, Some of dragons' outstanding magic-tracks, one brass shell, an aluminium turned barrel, 450mm metallic cable wire, one sheet of decals. I decided to add an Eduard photo etched set mainly for the tool catches, set No 35701. The Editor had also sent an aluminium

barrel from Jadar Model, which is beautifully turned with some fantastic rifling in the last 15mm of the muzzle end.

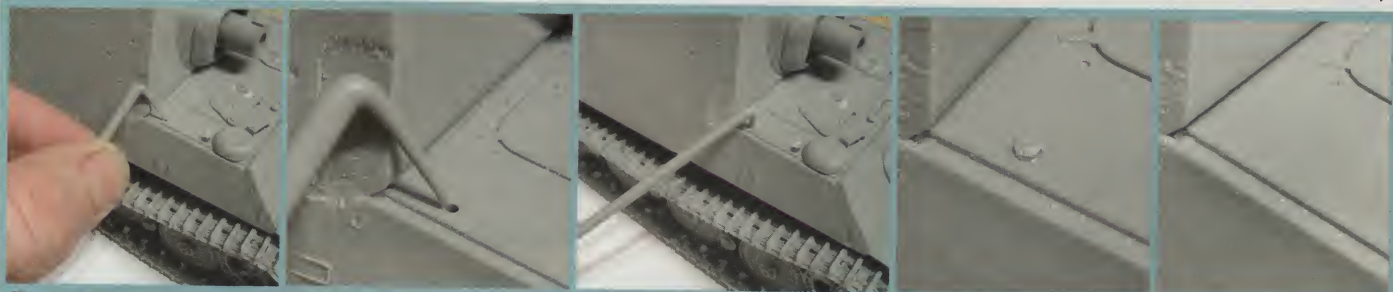
## MARKING THE WAY

Before I start construction, I check through the instructions to get an idea of the order in which to tackle the kit. I have found in most cases it's best to add the etched parts after most of the plastic construction is complete, as these delicate parts can so easily be damaged or knocked off. I will check which etched parts I'm going to fit and modify the plastic part accordingly if necessary. The tool locating holes are a classic example - these will need to be filled before the

brass clamps can be attached, they are often too large and can be seen under the photo-etched catch if not filled in first. The technique I use to overcome this problem is to simply fill the hole with a length of stretched-sprue. First brush with a little Liquid Poly, and then slide the tapered shaft into the hole. Any excess can be cut off flush straight away, secondly you can still see where the hole was and so is ideal for locating the etched parts.

## CONSTRUCTION

Dragon's recent kits have an excellent reputation for fine detail and good fit of parts, and am happy to say this Jagdtiger does not disappoint. Most of the parts have very



## Tech Tip!

Lengths of stretched sprue can be perfect for filling in unwanted location holes. As the sprue is stretched whilst being heated it starts to taper, and this makes it perfect to fit into any sized hole. Liquid cement is used to fix in place before the excess is removed and sanded flush.





As can be seen in these accompanying photos the authors model was made pretty much from the box. The only detail set the author chose to use was an etched brass set from Eduard, set No 35701. The main parts used from this set were the engine deck mesh screens and the tool and tow cable clamps that adorn the vehicles sides. The lefthand photo shows how the author used a scalpel to add the distinctive torch cut effect to the edges of the massive armour plate panels of the superstructure.

little flash and most of the ejector pin marks are on the unexposed side of the part. As with most kits the lower hull and running gear are the first parts to build. I then broke from the instructions and added the fantastic individual Magic-Tracks links. I think this is the best time to fit these, as there is considerable handling of the kit and no small parts to get damaged.

Moving to the rear of the superstructure, and there are a set or double hatches, which can be positioned open showing a basic interior and gun breach. I'm sure there is an aftermarket detail set to bring the fighting compartment up to scratch and would look wonderful through the open hatches. On examination of the kit I noticed

the thick side plates of the superstructure needed a little work, as they would have been cut to shape with a cutting torch, so I added a rough edge with the aid of a craft knife. The construction is simple and straightforward and there's not a lot more I can mention, as I didn't run in to any problems building the rest of the kit. Leaving only the spare track hangers, track guards, rear mudguards and main gun off for ease of painting, the model was now ready to start my favourite part.

#### PAINTING

The usual coat of Halfords grey plastic primer was applied and left to dry before the main paint job could begin. I had decided to go

for a late war ambush cloud pattern, with small hand paintbrush strikes. Inspired by some of Tony Greenland's handy work in his book *Panzer Model Master Class* - a fantastic book and a must have for any serious German armour modeller. I am still a firm believer in pre-shading my models prior to the main colour application. It's a simple technique, first of all I give the model a base coat spray Tamiya Panzer Grey XF63. For the base coat of dark yellow I used a 50/50 mix of Tamiya Desert Yellow XF59 and Tamiya Matt White XF2 thinned with Tamiya thinners sprayed at 25PSI though my Iwata Revolution airbrush. In two light coats, taking care not to get too much over spray on the tracks

when painting the rear wheels whilst making sure the grey burnt through slightly around details and panel lines etc, to help give an artificial depth and some interest to the mono tone yellow finish. Now for the fun part - the camouflage! For the green and brown camouflage colours I used Tamiya NATO Green XF57 and NATO Brown XF67 lightened with a few drops of the original yellow.

To create the cloud pattern I held the airbrush close to the model, approximately 40mm away. Using the green first I basically worked my way across the surface drawing lots of small circles approximately 8mm round in a staggered line then filled in the outline. To give a slightly



After an initial coat of grey primer the author's model was now ready to receive the camouflage colours. But first of all some pre-shading using Tamiya XF63 German Grey was added along details, along all panel lines and edges, before the base sand was applied again using an airbrush in light coats so that the pre-shading panzer grey just shows still. The camouflage colours were again chosen from the Tamiya Acrylic range, this time using NATO green and brown lightened with a few drops of the original base yellow to reduce the contrast for the correct scale effect the author wanted to achieve.



opaque look to the darker colours, I allowed some of the base yellow to show though. The same process was followed with the brown. Save some of the yellow green and brown so it can be sprayed over the top of the other colours in small dots and lines. To complete the camouflage scheme using a 1/0 zero brush I painted on the small bird shapes and lines.

#### GLOSSING AND WASHING

Hunting Tigers didn't seem to carry much in the way of markings apart from turret numbers but I've seen them in photographs with no markings at all. To achieve a good appearance of the decals I sprayed the entire model with Tamiya X22 Clear using Micro Sol and Set with the Dragon decals supplied in the box. The kit decals reacted well to the setting solutions to give that nice painted on look I was after. I usually only use oils washes in isolated areas but as the base yellow was looking a bit bright, I washed the whole kit in a weak burnt umber wash, using Humbrol enamel thinner as the thinning agent. A complete wash like this needs at least 24 hours to dry before matt varnishing can be attempted.

#### POWDER TIME

Looking at the kit now it looks like it's sitting in a tank museum somewhere so time to make it look

a little bit dark and moody. Pastels and powders are ideal for this, Mig Productions Dark Mud PO33 was worked into the panel lines and recesses with a number 3 brush, the excess was then removed with a flat brush leaving a subtle stain. My word of warning would be that these small brushes don't last very long doing this job but it's so worth it. Mig Productions European Dust PO208 was then liberally brushed over the tracks and running gear and the excess cleaned off with a lint-free cloth.

#### BRICKWORK

As this Jagdtiger will be going onto a diorama depicting it waiting in an ambush position surrounded by the ruins of a German city, I figured what would be better to use as camouflage than bricks and rubble from the immediate area. I now had a slight problem, how to paint all the Great North Roads plaster bricks, one by one - surely there must be a better way. The end result of a few trials I carried out was the most simple. Clean a yoghurt pot and half fill it with bricks, pour in quarter of a tin of Humbrol brick red and give it a good stir with a coffee shop stirrer until all the pink plaster colour of the bricks had disappeared turn the bricks out onto some greaseproof paper and separate (I've started to feel more like a cook than a modeller). Each brick

was then superglued on one by one then dusted over with Mig productions Beach Sand PO30.

#### COMMANDER

The figure was a Dragon Panzer Grenadier conversion only repositioning his arms a little. His right arm was originally holding an MG42 pistol grip with the rest of the gun resting on his shoulder, so by simply hollowing out the end of the pistol grip with a craft knife and adding some thin stretched sprue and hey presto, you have a pipe!

#### CONCLUSION

A completely enjoyable project mainly due to its simple construction and a great kit if you need to get reacquainted with your air brush and perhaps fancy taking on a larger colour scheme.

### Modelspec

Dragon 1:35 Sd.Kfz. 186 Jagdtiger Henschel production type Kit No.6285

#### Sets used

Great North Roads individual plaster bricks. Eduard etched brass set No.35701

#### Paints used

Tamiya Acrylics; XF59 Desert Yellow, XF57 Nato Green, XF68 Nato Brown, XF52 Dark Earth, X22 Clear, XF2 Matt White, XF63 Panzer Grey

Mig Productions; Europe Dust PO208, Dark Mud PO33

Oil Paint; Black, Burnt Umber Humbrol Thinners.

#### References

Panzer Modelling Masterclass by Tony Greenland Windrow and Green Publishing

☒ Well engineered, good parts fit and excellent instructions.

☒ None I can think of!

#### Available from

All good model shops

Rating ●●●●●●●●●●





Words by Paul Egerton

# IRAQI FREEDOM FIGHTER

We check out the revamped Bradley from Academy and see if it makes the grade...

**A**cademy's offering of the up-armoured M2A2 Bradley seen in Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) is their original kit with a new hull top with the additional armour integrally moulded – a quick and easy fix for the modeller and certainly an exercise in getting the most out of costly moulds. As a

result of this approach, many of the parts in the box are not required and will give a major boost to the spares collection.

The kit is crisply moulded and should be a relatively quick build from the box with road wheel stub axles moulded in place on the lower hull, the aforementioned integral armour, a total absence of internal fittings, no crew and no 'clutter' with which these vehicles were invariably festooned when on operations. Also,

some of the detail around the front of the turret and gun mantlet area doesn't seem particularly accurate when

compared with photos of vehicles on active service in Iraq (the Concord Special Ops series and in particular the Victory in Baghdad volume has some good shots). There is plenty of scope here then to exercise detailing skills and provide custom for the after market branch of the hobby. I'm rather surprised at this approach by Academy particularly when you consider the excellent interior detail in their M113 variants or CH46 Sea Knight for example.

Notwithstanding the rather sparse and simplified approach, this is nevertheless a pretty good kit of the vehicle at a reasonable price. It will, however, require a fair amount of work to produce a battle weary specimen. ■



## KIT PREVIEW DRAGON 1:35 Sd.Kfz 234/4 PANZERSPAHWAGEN • ITEM No. 6221

Words by the Editor

# SPECIAL PURPOSE VEHICLE

Could Dragon's new Sd.Kfz234/4 be the kit of the year?

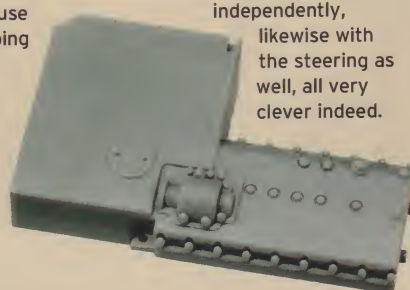
**I**n my opinion this has to be kit of the year so far - the detail and the thought that Dragon's design team have put into this model is absolutely amazing. As you read this, MMI contributor Darren Thompson is hard at work building this for a future in-depth article.

It would be quite easy to use up every superlative describing this kit, but I really don't know what Dragon could do to improve on this their latest release. The only negative point would be in that the first stage of the instructions are a bit busy to say the least. Actually

our first words were unprintable on opening the box...

Highlights include a full fighting compartment interior, a very complete suspension system that's all kept level with the aid of little locating pins. These pins can be removed to allow the suspension units to be angled independently,

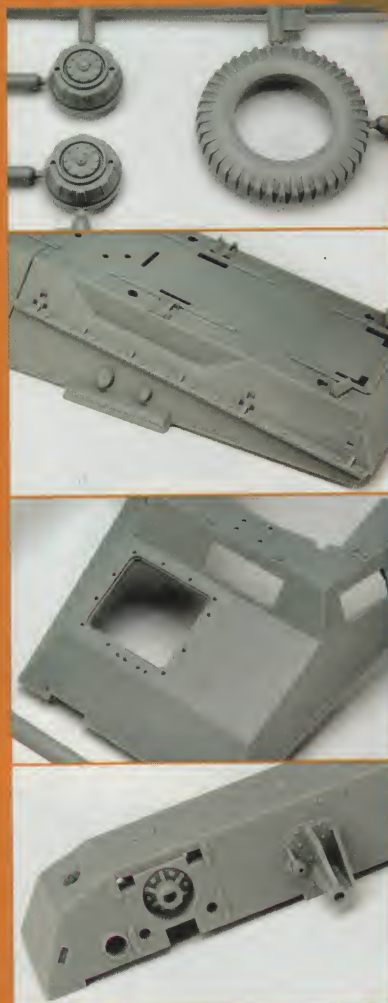
likewise with the steering as well, all very clever indeed.



Decals for two vehicles with hard-edged schemes from unknown units and a full set of markings are included for the ammunition and containers.

Interestingly, included in the box is a leaflet promoting Dragon's own range of up-grade and conversion parts. These include brass gun shield and engine louvres as well as different decal options and earlier pattern side fenders that feature the extra lockers seen on the Puma variant.

The '234/4 is simply stunning you will not be disappointed if you buy it, a true testament to how the manufacturers like Dragon listen to what we as modellers want. ■





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# BAND OF BROTHERS

Glenn Bowen creates a vignette inspired by the compelling TV series of the same name.

I first had the idea for this vignette a few years ago. I had just purchased Military Worlds' house front with steps. I had also just purchased a couple of weeks before, both Dragon US paratrooper sets. I was all ready to go, so I thought. Because just at that time my family and I decided to move. So the project got shelved for the time being, as things do. When we had finally settled into our new home and I was able to start modelling again the TV series 'Band Of Brothers' was being broadcast. This was what I needed to get things moving again. For me this has to be one of the best TV series ever made. It followed Easy Company, 506th Regiment, 101st Airborne Division from training at Camp Toccoa, to the landings at Normandy and finally the capture of Hitler's Eagle's Nest. I was so inspired by this programme that I decided to focus my little vignette around one of the many heroic deeds that E Company accomplished.

## LAY OUT

Although this was going to be a small vignette I wanted it to have a lot of things going on within it. I wanted the figures to take centre stage and everything else to blend into the background. I also knew that I wanted some sort of German hardware on it too. I needed something that wasn't too big that it would overwhelm the figures, (the Paras' being centre stage) so I chose a BMW motorbike and sidecar. There would also be a lamppost put into the right hand side of the scene to balance everything out.





This low angle shot emphasizes the drama of this compact scene.



## EASY MEN

As I have said before the figures came from two sets produced by Dragon. One being US Army Airborne (Operation Varsity 1945). Only one figure was taken from this set and that's the man at the front of the scene lying down. The two standing figures came from US Army Airborne (Normandy). I don't think this set is still available but you may be able to pick them up at a show?

Firstly all three figures where made up, webbing and all. These then received a primer coat of Tamiya flat white. This was done to show up any flaws that I might have missed in the clean up stage of the build up. After the touching up of a few minor blemishes the painting could begin. All the flesh areas where painted first with oils, then left twenty-four hours to dry thoroughly. The following evening the uniforms where painted. This time using Humbrol enamels, I used sandy tones for the main colour of the uniform and earth coloured tones for the shadows. The knee and elbow pads received a wash of pale green over the base colour. This was also done on the webbing, but this time the

shadows were picked out with dark green.

I must say that Dragon figures are an absolute joy to work with, either straight out of the box, or for conversion purposes. With the main characters done it was time to move onto the secondary items.

## VVVROOMMMM

The BMW and sidecar is one of Italeri's early kits, and it is still a little gem, the kit goes together straightforward enough right out of the box. I suppose I could have gone the full hog and added loads of etch brass, but I didn't because I thought it looked fine as it was. The only small bit of detail that I added was a couple of lengths of fuse wire for the brake cables and some little bits for the spark plug leads. It was then ready for a splash of paint.

Now I'm not sure weather it was right of me to do this, but I decided to spray it German Grey, as I wanted a bit of a contrast between the figures and the ruined backdrop. The bike probably should have been a dark yellow colour with some sort of camouflage pattern on it. But who knows there might have just been one stray

vehicle in the whole of the German Army that wasn't at this late stage of the war?

Anyway back to the painting. It received a base coat of Tamiya German grey and high lighted with a touch of white added to the base colour. It then received the usual oil wash of burnt sienna with a touch of black. Next it was chipped, and this was done using a

fine tipped brush and burnt umber oil paint. Finally all the little bits 'n' bobs where added. Such as gas mask canisters, Jerrycans, ammunition boxes and backpacks.

There was as much time and care taken in painting these as there was on the bike and figures. It can be a bit long winded but it well worth it when you see the end result.





This figure from Dragon's Operation Varsity 1945 set, works perfectly here taking cover behind the motorcycle and sidecar.



#### THE BASE

As this was going to be a small vignette I did not wish it to get lost in between my other larger dioramas. So I decided to elevate it. This would also act as a good basis for my nameplate, which I will add at the end. First a polystyrene block was cut to size and glued in place. Then I took some plastic card and cut that to size and glued it to all four sides. Next the Military world building and steps were glued in place on top. As I had used

PVA glue for this it was set aside to dry for twenty-four hours.

The following day some plaster was mixed up with a touch of PVA in it. This was then applied to where I wanted the debris to be added. Then the lamppost, oil drum and crates were put into position. Once I was happy with the layout the small stones and fine sand was added. It was then left again to harden off. After another day of waiting the whole thing was air brushed with various earth tones.

These ranged from Tamiya, Vallejo Model air and Mig Productions pigments. Yes, these can be sprayed but make sure you really thin them down; otherwise it's a real pain unblocking your airbrush afterwards.

Next the figures and bike were glued into place and then everything was dusted over again with Mig pigments. Finally the nameplate was added and this was a photocopy that one of my friends did for me.

#### CONCLUSION

I thoroughly enjoyed doing this little project, as it was a nice change from doing my larger dioramas. I am sure I will be doing some more in the future and I will definitely do another based around E Company. I'm sorry that this is only a short article on how I did this vignette, but to go into full detail would take a book up in itself. So I hope the pictures speak louder than words. ■



Even though the vignette isn't meant to be viewed from this angle the author has still detailed and weathered to the same superb standard as the rest of the scene.



The author has shown with some imaginative painting how good the inexpensive Dragon figures can look. Note how all the tones have been kept subtle.





## MEET THE AUTHOR

My name is Glenn Bowen, I'm 32 years old and live in the UK. I am married to my beautiful wife Christine, I also have two lovely sons called Kyle and Guy. I've been making models since the age of 8 and I still love it. I mainly build WW2 subjects but I'll have a bash at anything else that takes my fancy, such as the Pink Panther. I mainly work in 1:35 scale but I've also been known to do the odd 120mm figure.

This is a fantastic hobby to be in at the moment with so many exciting new kits coming out, what a wonderful age we live in.

I must thank my brother Dale and our close friend Nick Cook who is sadly no longer with us for introducing me to the world of modelling. I must also just say thank you to Phil Stutcinskas for being such a good friend. Thanks to all these people, thank you. ■

## Acknowledgements

My thanks to Nick for making the name plate and also to Phil Stutcinskas for taking the fantastic photos you see before you. I owe so much to this man he is an inspiration in the world of modelling and a true gent. Thank you Phil.

## Modelspec

### Diorama Feature

#### Sets used

Great North Roads 'Steps' House Front Vignette  
Dragon US Airborne "Normandy 1944"  
US Army Airborne (Operation Varsity 1945)  
Italeri BMW and sidcar  
Verlinden Lamp Post, 88mm Ammo Boxes,  
Wooden Barrels

#### Paints used

Tamiya Acrylics  
XF63 German Grey, XF14 JA. Grey, XF9 Hull Red, XF52  
Flat Earth, XF57 Buff, XF64 Red Brown  
Oil Paints  
Burnt Umber, Raw Umber, Burnt Sienna, Yellow  
Ochre, Lamp Black, White  
Mig Productions Pigments the whole range

#### References

BAND OF BROTHERS DVD box set

- ✓ Excellent fit of parts throughout the whole vignette. Well sculpted and well animated figures, and affordable too
- ✗ There were a few mould lines to clean up, nothing major

#### Available from

Dragon - All good model shops  
Verlinden Productions - [www.historex-agents.com](http://www.historex-agents.com)

Rating N/A







# Book Reviews



## PANZERWRECKS VOL 2

LEE ARCHER AND WILLIAM AUERBACH

[www.panzerwrecks.com](http://www.panzerwrecks.com)

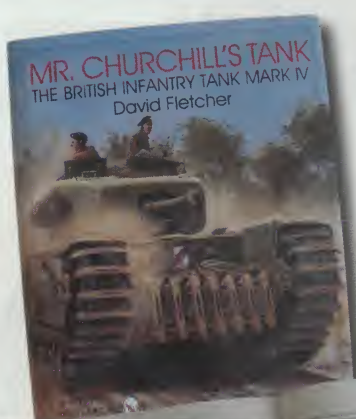
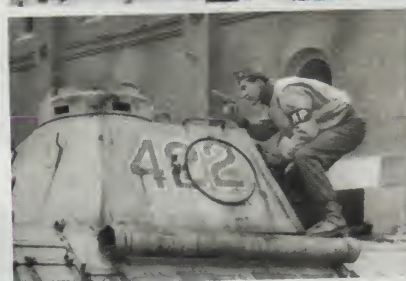
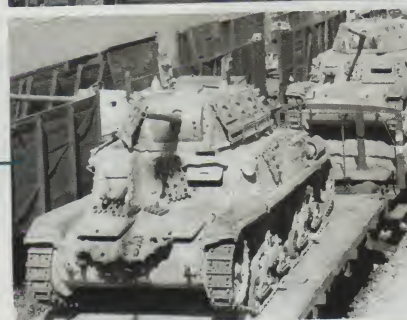
ISBN 0-9754183-1-9

This book does exactly what it says on the cover, all 100 pages are filled with good, clear photos of German vehicles in various stages of abandonment or destruction. For those of you who picked up Volume 1 last year and thought that it couldn't get better then check out the second instalment in this fantastic series! The black and white photos are nearly all one to a page with no examples running over the spine ruining the image. Each picture is captioned with what the vehicle is and where and when the picture was taken where possible.

Amongst the Panthers, Hummels, Panzer IVs and Stugs in states of disrepair are rare photos of Pantherstellung and dug in Panzer IVs in Berlin, a wood gas powered Panzer II and a little Panzer I fitted with a 7.5cm from a Stug III. How could such a small platform handle the recoil?

**VERDICT:** The Panzerwreck Volumes are an excellent source to modellers, both for vehicle reference material and diorama inspiration. Highly recommended.

*Graeme Carruthers*



## MR CHURCHILL'S TANK THE BRITISH INFANTRY TANK MARK IV

DAVID FLETCHER

A SCHIFFER MILITARY HISTORY BOOK

ISBN 0-7643-0679-0

Living in the West Country has its drawbacks. You tend to depend on magazine articles when deciding on your next purchase, so when I set my next project up, the Churchill AVRE with SBG, I started looking at reference material and the above book sprung to mind along with the Osprey modelling publication.

It is, in its own right, an outstanding book by an author even I have heard of, but for me the book falls short of the statement it makes in the cover sheet. It states that "The Churchill is examined mark by mark" I am sorry, but I could find no detailed examination of the AVRE's in the book, it's as if they are not Churchills and to further disappoint me no examination of the other Funnies. It would seem that the purist would not want the 'odd balls' in the book but as a modeller just wanting to gather detailed reference I was hoping for more than I got. Mr Fletcher could be bringing out a second book highlighting the other areas the Churchill was used?

Now before this gets you reaching for your pen or keyboard can I just state that this book does go into great depth, as you would expect, with the standard Churchill, so much so I am going to model a Mk V as per page 180. The quality of the drawings and pictures are second to none and with the addition of an in depth knowledge that is to be admired.

**VERDICT:** If you want a one-stop reference for the Churchill this is not it, you will have to shop around to collect all the information and with a near £40 price you may want to look before you leap.

*Ian McGonagle*





## OSPREY MODELLING 28 MODELLING THE TIGER TANK IN 1/72 SCALE

ALEX CLARK

OSPREY PUBLISHING

ISBN 1-84176-942-8

This is the latest in the Osprey Modelling series featuring Alex Clark demonstrating his considerable skills in building a variety of Tigers in 1:72 scale.

Number 28 in the series follows the well-established format of short a Intro and Tools and Techniques chapters followed by extensive coverage of the highly detailed build projects (Tiger II, Elefant, early Tiger I, Sturmtiger and Jagdtiger in this case). This is followed by a 'Gallery' chapter showing models by Antonio Martin Tello and Bob Grimster as well as Alex Clark. Finally there are reference chapters covering websites, bibliography, museums, kits and accessories and colour chips.

**VERDICT;** Another very well produced and illustrated offering by Osprey up to their usual high standards. Well worth adding to the library if WWII German armour or small scale AFV modelling is your thing.

Paul Egerton

## OSPREY MODELLING 29 MODELLING THE CHALLENGER 1 AND 2 MBT AND VARIANTS

GRAEME DAVIDSON AND PAT JOHNSTON

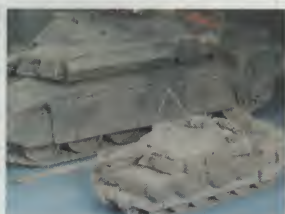
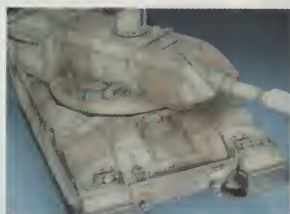
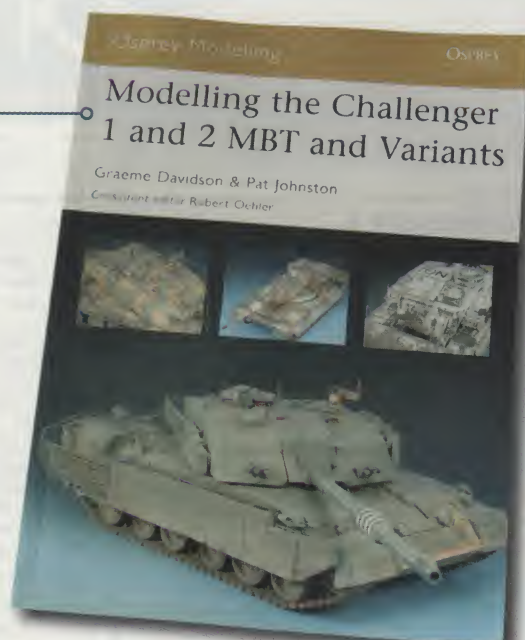
OSPREY PUBLISHING

ISBN 1-84176-927-4

Following on from Graeme's last Osprey title on modelling the M113 series, he has really done a superb job here again this time covering the British Army's Challenger 1 and 2. The models throughout the book have been expertly researched, neatly built and superbly painted. Seven models have been built in total including vehicles depicted as seen in both Gulf Wars as well as ones on peace keeping duties in Kosovo and Bosnia. There are a couple of more unusual versions, which includes a REME CrARRV and wild looking Falcon 2 of the Jordanian Army. There is a good mix of both construction and finished shots that are truly inspirational, to me this book has done exactly what it was meant to do and that is to make me go out and build a Challenger 1 or 2!

**VERDICT;** Both Graeme and Pat have done a first rate job producing this informative interesting book; Highly recommended.

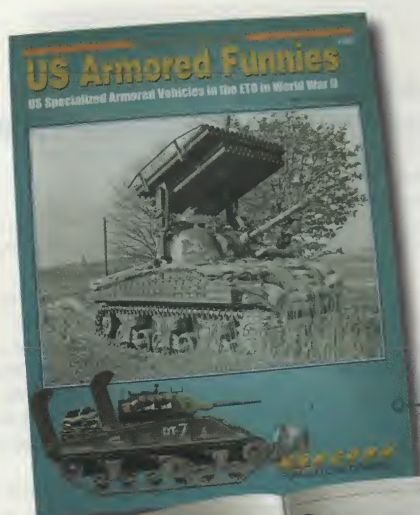
The Editor







# Book Reviews



## US ARMORED FUNNIES

CONCORD PUBLICATIONS COMPANY  
CODE 7052

ISBN 962-361-085-8

The format and presentation of the Armor At War Series from Concord is well known, so this latest offering comes as no surprise, a well laid out introduction giving a background to the content of the book followed by page after page of high quality battlefield photographs with endless modelling potential, to add to that a description with each photograph gives a concise view into the scene. Just when you thought all your wishes had been granted with this book there is one more surprise and that is the superb colour illustrations.

I, like many, pre-ordered my copy looking for the extra details on a subject I hold as my favoured topic. The wide use of specialist-tracked vehicles by both the Americans and British is well known and modellers gather reference material with an eagerness to make that model with a difference.

This book provides a good base for a subject model but I was left flat, always looking on the next page for the wow factor but it never came, maybe it's down to the lack of use by the Americans of the Funnies, it's well documented that the good old Yanks viewed the British "inventions" with trepidation, the Generals saw no part for the Funnies on the battlefield but I am sure that every veteran of the Omaha beach assault would express a different view. Could it be that I have seen these pictures before?

**VERDICT;** I have read the review on Missing Lynx by Frank De Sisto and I would agree with all but the last two words for this publication, I think recommended but not wowed is my best way to describe the book.

Ian McGonagle

## MILITARY BRIEFS 3 AUSTRALIAN CENTURIONS IN VIETNAM

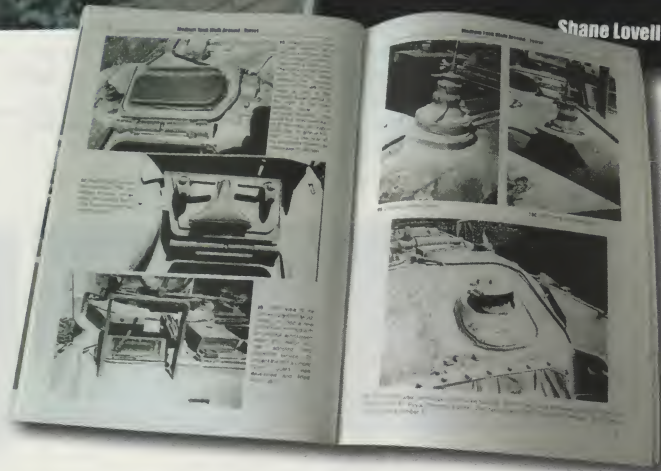
MOUSE HOUSE ENTERPRISES  
ISBN 0-9577586-2-6

Not that I'm very excited about the imminent release of AFV Clubs Australian Centurion, but I thought I'd best get a bit more reference, so I have a sporting chance of making an accurate model and possibly finding a vehicle to model that's not depicted by the instructions or one the markings cover.

I managed to pick up a copy of this Mouse House book that contains 76 pages of very useful info including some great colour photos, tech manual illustrations as well as a complete list of vehicle registrations and call signs.

**VERDICT;** Basically everything you need to model one of the coolest looking Centurion variants.

The Editor





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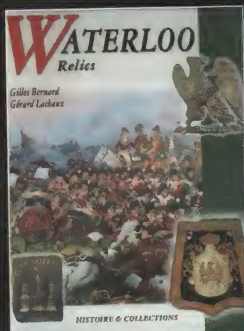
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## Feature of the month

## Waterloo: Relics

Authors: Gilles Bernard/Gerard Lachaux  
Published by Histoire & Collections

£24.95



Histoire & Collections (H&C) have established a fine reputation for publishing good quality books that don't cost the earth to buy. Most of their top quality titles are on the Napoleonic period and this one is no exception. A large hardback mostly in colour with some black and white, there are 128 pages on fine quality glossy paper detailing many of the relics found on and around the battlefield in the past as well as relics from private collections. These are shown along with artwork, maps and photographs explaining their part in the battle. This book is a must for any Napoleonic enthusiast and for anyone who has visited the battlefield.

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# Letters

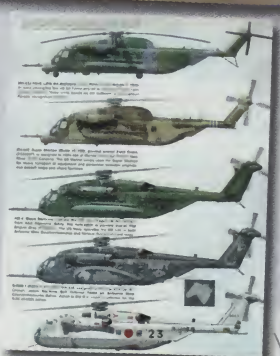
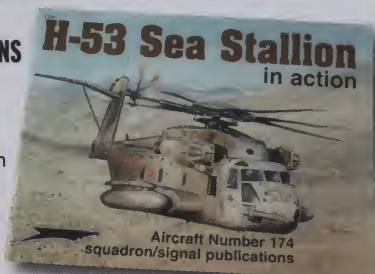
## RECOMMENDED READING

### H-53 SEA STALLION IN ACTION

AIRCRAFT NUMBER 174  
SQUADRON/SIGNAL PUBLICATIONS  
ISBN 0-89747-417-1

I've been reading up on the CH-53's especially the E version in preparation for the release of the Academy 1:48 scale monster.

Over the years I have collected most of the armour range and some of the aircraft series of in action books, I think they are a cheap and useful reference source, with generally enough detail shots and in action shots to keep most modellers happy including me. For me the best part of this series is the superb and very inspirational side view colour illustrations; always beautifully drawn. There is always at least one that makes me get that "just got to build it" feeling.



### BLAST FROM THE PAST

I recently got back into model building after a near 20 year hiatus. I decided to do it for real this time so I've invested in an airbrush and even built my own spray booth (£25 in total, plus some elbow grease). It's really exciting to see the development the hobby has undergone since my last foray and I really can't wait to get stuck in properly. My first projects are going to be a couple of Tamiya's 1:48 tanks, which seem to sit just between somewhat less detailed (although I'm sure some will disagree) 1:72 and the more detailed 1:35.



I was in my newsagent trying to find some sort of modelling magazine when I came upon MMI. It's a really fantastic magazine and I'm already looking forward to the next issue. It seems I picked a good time to pick up the hobby again, timing it just right with the launch of MMI. If anything, I would ask that you maybe include some more 'basics', like a "Modelling 101" section in each issue. A couple of times the articles jump a few steps that I'm sure seem very basic to the experienced modeller, but which can seem a bit puzzling for a newcomer. I would also love a piece on photo etched parts; how to use, tools needed, when to use, etc. Again, though, great magazine, and I look forward to many, many more great issues in the future.

Nik Grundstrom

*Ed says; Thanks Nik, You are right it's a great time to rejoin our hobby, the range of kits and the quality has never been better.*

*We will be covering basics techniques in both building and painting on a regular basis as either stand alone features or as Tech-guides with in the articles themselves. We hope that the glossary of terms in issue one was also of some use in covering a lot of the products, tools, techniques and terms in everyday use.*

### DOWN 'N DIRTY II

I feel I must write in reply to Mieke Farguharson's letter 'Down N Dirty' in issue No. 1 of MMI. Up until last Christmas I was in correspondence with an old gentleman who had served in both the Waffen SS and the French Foreign Legion, who has since sadly died (at the grand old age of 86), so I can now tell some of his stories!

If we modellers are depicting real vehicles then are we depicting real life if so then we should find out what was done in real life and copy that.

I know of an elderly ex-German, now Frenchman who was attached to the reconnaissance platoon of the Leibstandarte Adolf Hitler regiment in 1938 and continued to serve in the reconnaissance units until 1945. One thing he always said was, 'When the day was done, especially after conflict, the first thing we did was to clean our vehicles, get rid of the dirt and dust and if possible wash them!' 'Then we'd do any mechanical maintenance needed or due and then we'd eat. Otherwise we'd get a clip round the ear from the senior Sergeants and extra duties!' Vehicles were always put first. He would talk of emptying diesel from Russian tanks just to wash down his Achtrud' (Sd.Kfz231). So the answer to Mr Farguharson could be if the vehicle is WWII German and is to be shown 'at rest' then clean but worn should be the look; not 'dirty' and covered with mud etc. That should put the cat amongst the pigeons! Be prepared for flak! I once suggested that German vehicles were kept clean at a meeting at Bovington Tank Museum and it nearly caused a riot with the modelling fraternity! However some owners of restored vehicles agreed if they didn't clean and maintain their own vehicles immediately after use then they wouldn't last very long.

Alan Gunton

*Ed Says; Thanks for your insight we look forward to the discussions that will surely follow...*

### CAN'T WIN THEM ALL

Having purchased every copy of

your sister publication MAI and being a regular to TMMI (both fantastic publications), I was shocked to see three feature articles in the first issue of MMI all about the same tank. Not only does the Sherman feature so prominently here but also several promises within the magazine state that we will be subjected to at least another three features within the next few issues. I know they are all a bit different but come on, how many subjects could you have covered? Maybe your magazine should be called Sherman modeller, or maybe Sherman Tanker!!! The only saving grace and the reason I will buy issue two is because I can't wait to see what Phil Stutinkas has done with that Famo.

Michael Richardson

*Ed Says; Sorry Michael for over doing the Sherman but we promise that we will cover a large range of subjects in MMI - but you'll have to keep reading to see them all...*

### LONG TIME ADDICT

Well-done lads! Another great magazine from the ADH stable, I wish you every success. I have been making models longer than you lads were on the planet! Believe me my standards are not much above beginner level. But I love this hobby; I have hundreds of models & a huge library to coincide with this ADDICTION.

One model that still grabs my attention is the old Nitto/Blue Tank M8 Cargo Tractor. In all my years collecting model magazines I have only seen it reviewed when it was new in an Airfix Magazine in the late 1960s.

I would like to see what your model makers would produce from this venerable kit. Please somewhere down the line produce one. Also I would like to see a fairly neglected Trumpeter Faun Tractor in upcoming issues. Not to mention the soon to be released MAZ by the same company.

I could go on, but once again. It's great to see a quality magazine in circulation again. I wish you many years of gigantic sales figures.

Paul Kirwan  
Newbridge, Ireland

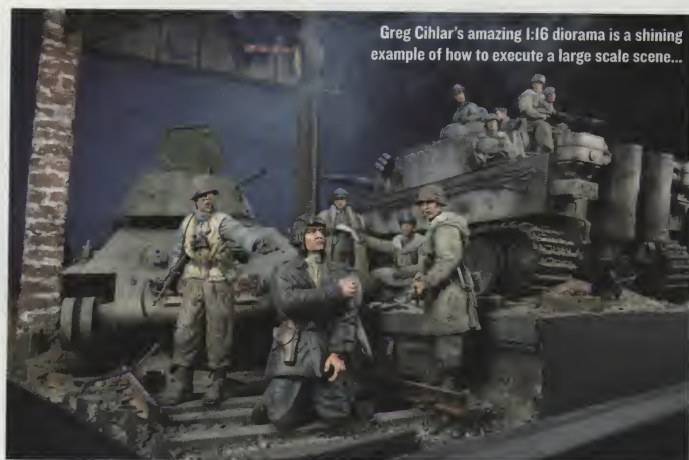
*Ed Says; If I remember rightly the old Nitto/Blue Tank M8 wasn't the best of kits even when it was released all those years ago. It would certainly be interesting to see what could be done with that kit now using all the latest goodies and painting styles. You are right the Faun transporter seemed to sell well, but I can't*



# WRITE TO:

MMI Letters, ADH Publishing, Doolittle Mill, Doolittle Lane, Totternhoe, Bedfordshire, LU6 1QX, UK  
Tel:01525 222573 Fax:01525 222574 Email:editor@modelmilitary.com

The views expressed are not necessarily those of the editor or publisher. Letters may be edited for publication.



Greg Cihlar's amazing 1:16 diorama is a shining example of how to execute a large scale scene...

*honestly say I have ever seen any actually built-up and painted. Maybe they are all in peoples' lofts on their to do list?*

*Hopefully if we get a sample of the new Trumpeter MAZ tank transporter we will press gang one of our contributors into building one as quickly as possible for MMI.*

## THE WAIT IS OVER

This is the first time I have written to a magazine, however, this is the first magazine I have felt the desire to read cover to cover and enjoyed completely. So a big thank you to you and your staff for a great first issue, and to whoever had the idea to get this publication off the ground.

I have been modelling for the last 10 years, more seriously since I left the Army 6 years ago in June! Time has flown by!! The point being that although I have learnt a lot from going to the Farnborough IPMS club I attend and from reading MIS and TMMI and I have always wanted to have the techniques explained better and you have shown your intent to nail this within the various articles. Now all I have to do is try and put in all into practice! Good luck with this venture and I hope it goes from strength to strength, I know I have been waiting for this type of magazine for 10 years!!

Sam Wilson

*Ed says: Thanks very much Sam for the kind comments.*

## EXCELLENT SERVICE

Just a short not to say how pleased I am with the excellent service I received from Shrewsbury Model centre after responding to their advert in issue one. I ordered three discounted Zvezda kits from them on the Thursday and the parcel arrived the very next day. I felt Service of this standard needs to be acknowledged.

Paul Egerton

## SUPER SIZE ME

Firstly, thank you for a brilliant first issue - I like the Tamiya mag style - if it works don't fix it! Both the photos and the articles of issue 1 were top quality - I especially liked the tech guide for figure painting. As a fairly experienced modeller I was pleased that I learned something - always a good sign, for me at least, that you are pitching at the right level! Certainly a magazine of sufficient quality to warrant a subscription and a binder, and given time I'm sure it will become a valuable reference source. Anyhow, enough praise for now. I did however note that 1:16 was conspicuous by its absence. I know that the bigger stuff is more expensive but this, like 1:48, is a scale that has taken off recently and is only set to grow. There are now several manufacturers of excellent options, upgrade and detail parts for 1:15 and 1:16. There are the RC and static Tamiya tanks, the Bandai 1:15 Stug, Tiger, Mk4 Panzer etc, a range of T-34's and variants from Trumpeter as well as a wheelbarrow full of MGs, Brownings, stowage, jerry cans, barrels, etc from other excellent manufacturers such as Verlinden. There are also the increasing number of homemade parts and conversions frequently available on a well-known auction site. This is a scale of growing interest!

For me, 1:16 scale modelling has been a step up from 1:35, there is nothing more satisfying than having completed a highly detailed tank model and then watching it trundle, squeaking and clacking, with engine sound roaring across a piece or real 'diorama'. So please, for all the fans of the bigger stuff (and there are a lot of us out here!), please don't forget 1:15 and 1:16 scales.

Peter Robinson

*Ed Says: I'm glad you like the style and layout of the magazine We do have some big stuff lined up,*



## MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Over the last few weeks we have received a number of letters and e-mails from readers wanting to see either more or less out of the box builds. The use of 'expensive' aftermarket updates and conversions has also brought in its fair share of comments as well, again some for and some against.

We are trying our best to keep everyone happy all of the time!

We will endeavour to have a mix of OOB builds, conversions and multi media kits in most if not every issue.

For example, the Sherman Firefly in Issue One was not an excuse to show off how much money can be thrown at a relatively inexpensive plastic model, but in our experience it was the best way to showcase some of the many updates and detailing sets available for virtually every kit these days. Most of these sets when reviewed within the 'Incoming' section of MMI can't do them justice, therefore when enough products turn up for a particular subject we chuck them all on as a way of demonstrating their potential. This doesn't mean that anyone interested in that model has to feel obliged to copy it exactly, but rather choose to use the parts that appeal to them or not.

**See you again on July 6th!**

**Spud**  
John 'Spud' Murphy

## JUST GOTTA BUILD IT!

### WE TAKE A CLASSIC PHOTOGRAPH FROM WORLD WAR TWO THAT'S JUST CRYING OUT TO BE TURNED INTO A MINIATURE SCENE...

How's this for potentially the most expensive scene that could be replicated as a 1:35 scale diorama with commercially available models. This recovery operation followed the forced landing by an Army Air Corps Lynx helicopter during Exercise Saif Sareea II in Oman during the 2001.

For starters two Foden 6 by 6 Recovery vehicles at £175 each, a Lynx helicopter all be it a Mk7 and not the Mk9 in the photo at £150, and lastly a, Wolf Land Rover at £50 making a grand total of £550 and that's without adding any figures!



If you have a picture of a scene that can top this one, we would love to see it. If you have any pictures that we should feature let us have a copy at the MMI office.

*unfortunately they are not quick to build and the people that have offered articles haven't really been up to an expectable standard to publish. If all the 1:16 models I have been sent were of the same standard as this amazing diorama from Greg Cihlar I would be more than happy to feature them in every issue. I think the larger scales are great, of the few bits in 1:16 I have built I have really enjoyed. The scale really lends itself to super detailers and painters alike the only down side is storage, which is partly why*

*1:48 is being pushed so heavily by the Far-East manufacturers.*

### GOOD WORK...

I just purchased my copy of Issue #1 from the local hobby shop - and I must send you hearty congratulations! It is really well presented and comprehensive - better than I imagined it would be. I'm eagerly looking forward to future issues.

**Jim "GunTruck" Lewis**  
Owner/Master Miniaturist  
GunTruck Studios [www.guntruck.com](http://www.guntruck.com)





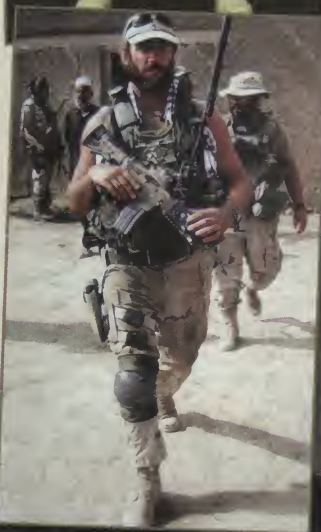
# Figures

- A round-up of the latest figured sets on release...



## Think One Eighty Studio 1:35 US SPECIAL FORCES AFGHANISTAN/IRAQ Item No.35002

The quality of the figures coming out of the Think One Eighty Studios is second to none. This Spec Ops guy looks absolutely spot on - one look in the H&C book on Special Forces The War on Terrorism in Afghanistan will show how lifelike and rag tag and un-military these troops looked. Definitely my favourite figure to date, makes me want to hurry up and convert a Tamiya Humvee into a desert Dumvee for him to accompany.  
10/10



## Dragon 1:35 GENERATION 2 GERMAN MINE DETECTORS Item No.6280

The latest set of Gen 2 figures to arrive from dragon is a set of WWII German pioneer troops in the act of searching for and clearing mines. As with all the other sets in the Gen 2 range the figures are made up from an awful lot of parts compared to more traditional injection plastic figures. For example the figure I assembled for the photos consisted of some 21 parts and that's not including items of equipment!

The level of detail is without question; the only problem is that when so many parts are used to make up each figure any miss alignment of a single part can cause a knock on effect, which can result in quite a few minor gaps on the finished model.

8.5/10



## Art Of War 1:48 US TANK CREW WWII Item No.AOW48/01

Under the Squad 48 banner Art of War have produced a great five man tank crew specifically designed for the Tamiya 1:48 Sherman kits. Both detail and sculpting are excellent; all the figures are well proportioned and display nice natural poses. My only concern is with the driver figure, in that he's no Brad Pitt in the looks department - to be honest it looks like he got both barrels with the ugly gun from point blank range! That aside these are a very welcome addition to the rapidly expanding 1:48 range.

9/10







**Custom Dioramics**  
**1:35 ORTHODOX**  
**PRIEST**  
**Item No. CD4047**

An interesting choice of subject but one that will certainly help tell a story on the right diorama. This one has been superbly sculpted by my master figure modeller Douglas Lee and clean crisp casting by the VLS team.

9/10



**Custom Dioramics**  
**1:35 OLD WOMAN**  
**REFUGEE**  
**Item No. CD4049**

Another unusual choice of topic from the VLS team, I think we should run a competition for the most imaginative use of this old lady in a diorama! As usual flawless casting and first class sculpting.

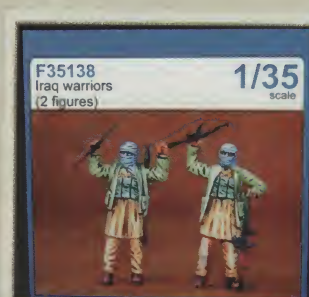
8/10



**Think One Eighty Studio**  
**1:35 US MARINE w/M249**  
**in MOPP GEAR OIF**  
**Item No. 35003**

This is another great figure from the Think One Eighty Studio team; this figure represents an Operation Iraqi Freedom US Marine in the standard and rather baggy looking MOPP gear. He is armed with a beautifully detailed M249 Minimi. A superb figure that's superbly sculpted and cast; highly recommended.

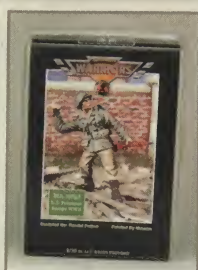
9.5/10



**CMK**  
**1:35 IRAQ WARRIORS**  
**Item No. F35138**

Both these figures are stood waving their AK's in the air triumphantly, interesting poses and somewhat limiting their diorama potential. I feel they would have been more useful to have them aiming the weapons at least they could be incorporated into a street fighting scene. As they are I can only think of a diorama featuring them celebrating knocking out a coalition vehicle. Not something I would contemplate modelling! Well cast and sculpted, but not the most useful of poses in my mind.

7/10



**Warriors**  
**1:35 US POINTMAN EUROPE WWII**  
**Item No. WA35563**

This GI is posed signalling to his squad to halt, this is a great figure to add some drama to a scene, he is wearing later war M-1943 pattern uniform and is armed with his trusty M1 Garand rifle.

9/10



**Verlinden Productions**  
**1:35 STALINGRAD SERIES SET II**  
**GERMAN POWS**  
**Item No. 2142**

Although listed as POW's these two very cold looking soldiers could be used for any winter setting. Both figures in this set are well sculpted and flawless casting as we have come to expect from the Verlinden studios.

9/10



**Verlinden Productions**  
**1:35 FIGURE CONVERSION PARTS**  
**FOR BRITISH WWII PARATROOPS**  
**Item No. 2160**

This set is designed to convert British WWII Para figures from the Verlinden range, included are three sets of torsos and legs in varied poses as well as a whole host of extra arms, heads, weapons and webbing. Great value and great for topping up the spares box.

8.5/10







# References - M1A1 AIM (Abrams Integrated Management)



## UP CLOSE WITH THE COMBAT CADILLAC

Ralph Zwilling describes the upgrades made in the M1A1 AIM (Abrams Integrated Management) upgrade program.

**N**early at the same time Dragon Models Ltd. started the development of the M1 Panther II kit, they also began working on a new M1A1 AIM Abrams model. From the beginning they decided to retool most of the parts of the M1A1 HA kit being release in the 1990s even when this extended the developmental period. During the entire development process, the 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment 'Steel Tigers' and the 1st Squadron, 4th US Cavalry Regiment 'Quarterhorse', both located at Conn Barrack in Schweinfurt, Germany, provided outstanding support. We had the chance to photograph their tanks at home base and also at several Forward Operating Bases in Iraq when they were deployed in order to support Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

### THE M1A1 AIM ABRAMS

The M1A1 program, which started in 1985, was the first major block improvement of the M1 Abrams tank and provided a significant improvement to the Army's offensive ground combat power. The block upgraded included the 120 mm smoothbore gun, improved fire control system, a new turret, increased armour protection, NBC overpressure system, improved suspension and modified transmission and final drives. These improvements provided the M1A1 greater shoot-on-the move capabilities and an increased first round hit probability against advanced enemy armour.

The 1500hp Lycoming Textron AGT-1500 multi-fuel turbine engine, in connection with the six fuel cells holding a total fuel capacity of 1.908 L, provide the

63 ton tank a maximum speed of 67 km/h and a cruising range of nearly 466 km depending on the terrain conditions. Besides others, this engine has the advantage of being extremely quiet. Even at full power, the turbine emits only a muted whine giving the Abrams a tactical advantage over noisy diesel tanks. It runs primarily on diesel or kerosene based fuels such as DF-1, DF-2, JP-4, JP-5, JP-8 or kerosene. In an emergency gasoline, AVGAS or MOGAS can also be used at the risk of engine damage after prolonged periods.

### TRANSMISSION

The Allison X1100-3B hydrokinetic transmission with four forward and two reverse gears also provides integral brakes, hydrostatic steering and pivot steering. The powerpack, consisting of

the engine and transmission, is removed as a unit and can be replaced in under an hour.

The suspension consists of seven roadwheels with the idler in front, drive sprocket in the rear and two return rollers. The numbers 1, 2 and 7 roadwheels are provided with hydraulic rotary shocks and bump stops allowing 15 in of travel, almost double that of the M60 MBT. This suspension allows the M1A1 AIM previously unheard of cross-country performance and a very soft ride living up to its nickname of the 'Combat Cadillac' among some troops. The T-158 track is rubber with steel pins and end connectors with replaceable pads.

### TURRET SYSTEMS

The main armament is the well known 120mm M256 smoothbore





▲ This device bolted to the side of the gunner's sight is a FBCB2 antenna, or some times known as a blue force tracker.



◀ A thick layer of dust and dried mud has completely obscured the camouflage colours on the front hull and drivers hood.



▲ Wind sensor close-up, note also the yellow stenciling on the ammo box.



▲ Note how the track end connectors have worn all the paint along the inside top edge of the track shields.



▲ Lots more useful wear and tear reference in this shot of the lefthand side idler and forward road wheels.



▲ A nice detailing touch here is that the colour of the sprocket hub differs from the replacement sprocket ring.

gun developed by Rheinmetall Landsysteme GmbH of Germany firing a variety of ammunition types. It is equipped with a thermal shroud, bore evacuator and a muzzle reference sensor to compensate for gun tube drop. The M1A1 AIM carries 40 rounds of 120 mm ammunition; 34 in the turret bustle and six in a rear hull box. The commander has a .50cal Browning M2HB machine gun on a powered rotary platform and equipped with a x3 magnification sight. The depression/elevation ranges from  $-10^{\circ}$  to  $+65^{\circ}$  and the traverse is  $360^{\circ}$ . The loader has a 7.62 mm M240 FN MAG58 machine gun on a skate mount, the elevation of which is from  $-30^{\circ}$  to  $+65^{\circ}$  and the traverse rotation is  $265^{\circ}$ . Another 7.62 mm M240 machine gun is mounted coaxially on the right hand side of the main

armament. On both sides of the turret the tank is fitted with six-barrelled M250 smoke grenade dischargers. The standard smoke grenade contains a phosphorus compound that masks thermal signatures of the vehicle to the enemy. Although most of the modern tanks have electrically powered turrets, the M1A1 AIM turret is still equipped with electro-hydraulic technology with a manual backup.

The tank commander sits on the right side of the turret and has overall responsibility for the operation of the tank. His cupola with 8 vision blocks and a hatch, which can be opened in 3 positions, is capable of rotating  $360^{\circ}$  in power or manual mode. The commander is also provided with an optical extension for the gunners primary sight allowing

him the same view and an override that allows him to take control of the turret and fire the weapons at any time.

The M1A1 AIM still has no independent sight for the commander like the German Leopard 2A6 MBT. The gunner sits in front of and slightly below the tank commander. He is primarily responsible for firing the main gun and coax. He uses the Primary Sight-Line of Sight (GPS-LOS) with a single axis stabilized head mirror developed by the Electro-Optical Systems Division of Hughes Aircraft Company. The GPS has daylight optics with x10 magnification narrow field of view, x3 magnification wide field of view, and unity magnification close-in surveillance with 18 degrees field of view. The night vision Thermal Imaging System (TIS) from Hughes

also has magnification x10 narrow field of view and x3 magnification wide field of view and creates an image based on the differences of heat radiated by objects within the field of view. The thermal image is displayed in the eyepiece of the gunner's sight together with the range measurement from the laser rangefinder.

#### FIRE CONTROL

The Hughes Laser Rangefinder for the M1A1 Abrams consists of a NdYAG laser transmitter, a receiver and timing and logic electronics integrated into the tank's fire control system. The operator aims the rangefinder on the target and fires the laser. The laser beam is reflected back from the target into the receiver and the time of travel to and from the target provides an accurate range





# References - M1A1 AIM (Abrams Integrated Management)

▼ Tankers with cam cream! If the enemy hasn't seen the 60 ton tank first they won't have spotted the commander with or without his warpaint on.



▲ A very mean looking vehicle especially when fitted with the sinister looking track-width mineplough.



▲ An interesting choice of slogan to have on the commander's hatch of this M1 - 'Got Mit Uns' is German for 'God With Us' and appeared on the belt buckles of WW2 Wehrmacht soldiers.



▲ General view of the same tank as the previous photo, note the scraped paint on the loader's periscope cover.



▲ Loader's hatch detail, of interest here is how the dirt and dust gets ingrained into the anti-slip coating of the turret roof.

◀ measurement for the fire control computer. The heart of the Abrams is the advanced fire control system which processes information on wind, temperature, ammunition type, vehicle movement and equipment sensors, giving the M1A1 AIM a high first round hit probability. The M256 gun is stabilized for firing on the move, allowing the Abrams to "shoot-and-scoot" with a high degree of accuracy. The gunner also has a Kollmorgen Model 939 auxiliary sight with magnification x8 and field of view 8 degrees in case of a GPS malfunction.

The loader's station is located on the left side of the turret and has no special fire control equipment. Ammunition for the main gun is stored in the turret bustle and is accessed by the loader by pushing

a switch with his knee. This causes a titanium door to hydraulically slide open allowing a round to be removed, the knee switch is then released allowing the door to close. The loader must then flip the round over and insert it into the breech. Then he pulls up a lever to arm the gun, clears the path of recoil, and yells 'UP!' to let the crew know the gun is ready. He must be able to accomplish all this in seven seconds but a good loader can do it in less than four seconds.

## COMMUNICATIONS

The loader is also responsible for operation of the two SINCGARS radios mounted in the left front of the turret. These radios have built in encryption and have the ability to hop frequencies at random at a rate of 100 per second. This makes

them very secure and virtually jam proof. The driver's station at the centre front of the vehicle is equipped with a monitoring panel showing the condition of vehicle fluid levels, batteries and electrical equipment. The seat can be elevated to allow driving unbuttoned. His hatch swings open to the right and has 3 integral vision blocks. The driver's AN/VSS-2(V)2A night vision equipment, which can be installed instead of the centre vision block, enables the tank to manoeuvre at normal daytime driving speeds in darkness and in poor visibility conditions such as in dust, smoke and in battlefield obscurants. The M1A1 AIM is steered by a T-bar with twist grip throttle controls much like a motorcycle.

The hull and turret are protected

by advanced armour similar to the Chobham armour developed by the UK Ministry of Defence. To provide a higher level of protection against anti-tank weapons, the M1A1 AIM tank also incorporates steel encased depleted uranium armour. The tank is equipped with an automatic Halon fire extinguishing system which is activated within 2 milliseconds of a fire outbreak and extinguishes a fire within 250 milliseconds. In the event this system fails, there are manual backup handles in the drivers compartment and outside on the left side of the hull. Armour bulkheads separate the crew compartment from the fuel tanks. On the turret roof there are blow off panels allowing the explosion to vent upwards away from the crew in the event of ammunition





▲ The commander's cupola and .50 cal machine gun mount seen here are one of the major identification differences between the M1A1 and the later A2.



▲ An excellent detail shot of the loader's M240 machine gun. The small tubes below the ammo box are for mounting camouflage net support poles.



▲ All opened up; the turret mounted APU offering a wealth of scratchbuilding potential. Also of interest is the paint chipping around the stowage basket frames.



▲ Who says modern armour paint doesn't chip!

The British pattern smoke dischargers are a feature of all US Army M1A1 AIMs



fire. There is also a set of blow off panels under the hull for hull ammunition storage. Due to these design features if all 1,908 L of fuel and all 42 min gun rounds were to detonate, the crew would only suffer a bad scare. In the event of a NBC strike, the tank is equipped with an overpressurisation system. This system draws bleed air from the engine, cools and filters it, then pressurizes the crew compartment with it. Because of this, the crew can operate without having to be burdened with protective masks like the M42. If the crew masked, they can plug into hoses and draw cooled, filtered air directly from the tank.

#### THE ABRAMS INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT (AIM) PROGRAM

Sustainment and recapitalization of

the Legacy Force are fundamental components of the Army's Transformation strategy. Even because of the fielding of the M1A2, the M1A1 Abrams main battle tank remains the dominant ground combat platform in the Legacy Force. Today there are more than 1,000 M1A1s in active Armour and Cavalry units and many more in the reserve components and pre-positioned at locations around the globe. Because of a higher than normal mileage for the tanks during operations and training, the US Army recognized the need to recapitalize the aging M1A1 Abrams tanks. Recapitalization means rebuilding and selectively upgrading currently fielded systems to a zero-time, zero-mile standard to ensure their operational readiness. Weapon

system recapitalization provides a single method for addressing two critical sustainment factors: system supportability and operations and support costs.

The Abrams Integrated Management (AIM) program, initiated in 1999, is a partnership formed between Anniston Army Depot in Alabama and General Dynamics Land Systems of Sterling Heights, Michigan, to recapitalize aging M1A1 Abrams tanks. The joint venture exploits the depot's expertise in repairing and refurbishing components and the manufacturer's skill in assembling ground combat systems to prescribed specifications. The AIM overhaul is the Army's under-funded program to sustain the nearly 7,000 Abrams tanks as part of the total recapitalization

plan. AIM is funded at 135 tanks per year which translates into a 12-year rebuild cycle for the active component. As the M1A2 fleet ages, the Army must expand AIM to include about 90 M1A2 SEPs per year beginning in 2012. With a 20-year rebuild cycle for the reserve component, the Army will also have to implement a 90 tank per year program beginning in 2006.

#### TOTAL REBUILD

With the AIM program, the M1A1 tanks are completely remanufactured resulting in a nearly new tank. The tanks enter the process at Anniston Army Depot where the entire vehicle is completely disassembled with each component cleaned, inspected and evaluated for rebuilding, refurbishment or complete





# References - M1A1 AIM (Abrams Integrated Management)



▲ A wealth of detail in this shot, from the infra red and white light driving lamps above the gun to the different paint colours on the road wheels.

Plenty of spare road wheels and a towbar are essential items on this tank. ►



▼ On patrol in Iraq; this M1A1 speeds across open terrain.



▲ Note how the demarcation between the camouflage colours where the paint is slightly rougher has attracted dust making it look like the sand lines have been sprayed on.



▲ Stenciled logo on the bore evacuator.

◀ replacement. While many of the rebuild components stay at Anniston, other parts are sent to one of several rebuild sites. These sites include General Dynamics Land Systems' facilities in Scranton, Pennsylvania, Muskegon, Michigan, as well as other Army depots. After the parts and assemblies are refurbished, they are shipped to the Government-owned, General Dynamics-operated Lima Army Tank Plant in Ohio, where the tanks are reassembled on the original tank production line, tested and accepted back into the Army's fleet. Following re-assembly, the tanks are fielded to designated units in an order of precedence based on the units' operational tempos. The rebuilt tanks are subjected to the same acceptance procedures as new vehicles.

AIM has increased from its initial production rate of 45 tanks per year to 135 per year and now the program is fully funded at this rate through fiscal year 2007. The success of a re-capitalization program may depend on how effective the execution plan is in establishing the system's configuration baseline. In the case of M1A1 tanks, many configuration updates have occurred over time. As many as four different versions of some primary tank components have been produced, some of which have not been compatible with earlier upgrades. The AIM program re-establishes a baseline system by incorporating all outstanding engineering change proposals (ECPs) and ensuring that all line-replaceable units have the most recent configuration.

Standardization is ensured across the fleet by fielding the AIM M1A1s to divisions in battalion sets (44 tanks each).

## OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Included in the fielding of the M1A1 AIM tanks are a refurbished set of tank basic issue items, a new set of technical manuals, a small quantity of repair parts, and any diagnostic tools required. The repair parts are limited to those parts that are new or modified because of a change in tank configuration. Diagnostic tools include any software changes required for the direct support electronic test set to support a different tank configuration. The soldiers in the gaining unit, like the 1st Battalion, 77th Armour in Schweinfurt, Germany, receive limited operation and maintenance

training that is focused on tank configuration changes.

Because of the re-capitalization of the AIM program, the M1A1 Abrams will remain the backbone of the US Army armour units in the future. Based on experience made during Operation Iraq Freedom, the US Army has launched the Tank Urban Survivability Kit (TUSK) upgrade for Abrams MBT serving in Iraq. Based on US and IDF experience, the upgrade improves armour protection to the sides and rear and enhances the roof-mounted machine guns for improved protection of the operators and better ability to engage target. TUSK is designed to be a simply add-on upgrade that can be conducted by the units in the field. But this will be another story! ■





▲ This series of photos shows MIAIHA tanks on exercise in Germany, certainly for these tanks there is no such thing as too much stowage!



## THE PLATINUM COLLECTION

FULLY  
ASSEMBLED

1/72<sup>scale</sup>

AS-90 SPG British Army (THOR)  
146mm long inc barrel



The ultimate compromise between protection, mobility and firepower, the tank with these qualities in an equal balance dominates the battlefield. From the late WWII American M26 'Pershing', a tank that could finally allow the Americans to take on a Tiger on equal terms, the gigantic German 'Maus', the next progression from the King Tiger, and the Russian JS-3 with its massive 122mm high velocity gun, first seen by western observers at the Russian Victory Parade in 1945, to the AS-90 Self Propelled Gun of the present day, these models capture all their amazing fine detail so you don't have to.

AVAILABLE FROM YOUR LOCAL HOBBY SHOP



JS-3/3m Egyptian 4th Tank Div. 1967  
133mm long inc barrel



M26 Pershing, Tank Company A 18th Tank Bn, 8th Armored Div  
115mm long inc barrel



The German Maus 143mm long inc barrel

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## REVELL

1:72 M60A3

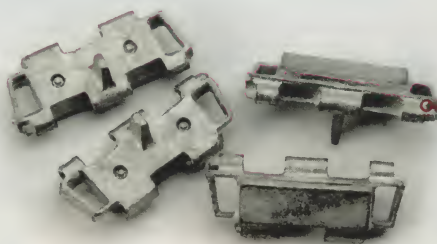
ITEM NO. 03140

Revell have done an excellent job of reproducing this M60 in 1:72. The parts breakdown looks remarkably similar to that in the 1:35 scale M60 Blazer featured elsewhere in this issue. This no bad thing the detail is very good in fact. The kit comes with link and length T142 style tracks that don't suffer from any injection pin marks so common with this style of track. The turret and hull mouldings are superb as is the very delicate looking turret basket.

Three decal options are included one for an Egyptian vehicle seen during the Bright Star exercise during 1999. This tank sports the standard sand, dark green and earth scheme. The second is in Greek markings and wears the US Army MERDC colours and the last is a US Army variant based in Germany in 1995 and this one is in plain old Forest Green.

Revell have produced a real winner here, great detail easy to build as well as being a good base kit superdetailing or converting. The Editor.

8.5/10



## FRIULMODEL TRACKS

1:35 WARRIOR MCV REPLACEMENT  
WHITE METAL INDIVIDUAL LINK TRACKS  
ITEM NO. ALT-82

A direct replacement for the rubber band style tracks supplied with the Academy Warrior kit. A huge improvement over the kit tracks - the Academy tracks are a bit on the thin side - they just don't replicate the bulk of the real things.

These Friulmodel items have captured it perfectly with the added bonus of being heavy they sag naturally and realistically between the return rollers.

If you only buy one update for your Academy Warrior make it a set of these tracks, well okay, maybe a new gun barrel, any of the Accurate Armour detailing or conversion sets and an Eduard set wouldn't go a miss either. The Editor.

9/10



## LEGEND PRODUCTIONS

1:35 M48A3 VIETNAM STOWAGE SET  
ITEM NO. LF1074

I'm a great fan of these accessory sets from Legends, I think they are fantastic value for money and this set is no different. All items are cleanly cast in their familiar cream coloured resin. Some of the highlights include a complete xenon searchlight with lens cover, Alice packs, cot beds, Marmite containers, C ration boxes, a cooler box and a whole lot of smaller bits and bobs all perfect for stowing up any US or Aussie AFV during the Vietnam conflict.

Excellent value for money as this set has more than enough bits to stow a couple of vehicles. The Editor.

9.5/10

## ARMO

1:35 SPRENGGRANATE FOR 54 CM

"LOKI" GERAT 041

ITEM NO 35773

1:35 BETONGGRANATE FOR THE 60 CM

"KARL" GERAT 049

ITEM NO 35774

These projectiles are designed for the 1:35 WWII German 54 and 60cm Mortars from Dragon and Trumpeter, both have been expertly turned from solid aluminium and I think will be must have for anyone who has built or wants to build one of these monster weapons. The Editor.

9/10







### ROYAL MODEL

**1:35 WHEELS FOR SD.Kfz. 251 AUSF C/D**  
**ITEM NO. 373**

Royal Models have provided three replacement wheels beautifully cast in light grey resin; included are two with inflated tyres and one with a flat. All three come with separate hubcaps and valve stems. I think the flat tyre is a great addition and has been faithfully reproduced, something I have tried to replicate myself and it's not easy to make it look realistic. A simple upgrade for any 251 halftrack and the flat tyre is a great inclusion. The Editor.

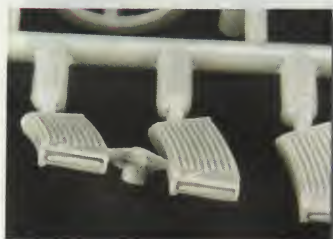
9/10

### ARMO

**1:35 METAL BARREL FOR TAMIYA HENSCHEL KING TIGER**  
**ITEM NO 35736**

Jadar have produced a very nice turned Aluminium gun barrel and separate muzzle brake as a direct replacement to the plastic item in the Tamiya kit. The turned muzzle brake is exceptionally well done. The Editor.

8.5/10



### DRAGON

**1:35 2CM FLAK 38 MIT SD.AH.51**  
**ITEM NO.6288**

I'm running out of superlatives to describe the latest models coming from Dragon. This diminutive Flak gun is no exception, it is absolutely stunning. From the slide mould technology used to produce a hollow ended muzzle for the delicate 2cm gun to the inclusion of both a full set of plastic and pre-formed brass gun shields for the builder to choose from. There is also a small brass mesh fret to form into the empty cartridge basket, all of which make this great little model.

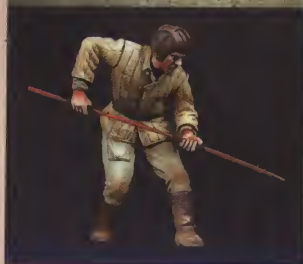
Amazing level of detail and even more amazing is that this tiny gun is made up from over 200 pieces; another winner from the boys at Dragon. The Editor.

9/10

## Coming Soon...

### Mig Productions 1:35

MP35-261 38T BUNKER  
MP35-264 Early Tiger1  
BATTLE DAMAGE SET (to fit Dragon kit)  
MP35-118 SOVIET TANKER AT WORK



### Mig Productions 1:48

MP48-016 FRENCH HOUSE (Normandy)  
MP48-063 GERMAN WINTER CREW 4 figures (multipose)



### Mig Productions 1:72

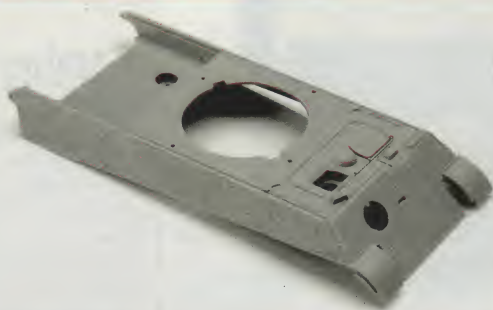
MP72-094 FACTORY RUIN  
MP72-095 INDUSTRIAL CHIMNEY

### Mig Productions Weathering Products

P223 URBAN COMBAT  
PIGMENT SET







## DRAGON

### 1:72 KING TIGER WITH ZIMMERIT ITEM NO. 7240

This kit is worth buying just to see how well Dragon has managed to re-create the Zimmerit effect on the hull and turret parts. Other highlights include separate engine deck panels and a partial engine and cooling system as well as a hollow muzzle brake thanks to cutting edge slide mould technology. The tracks are the rubber band type and are well detailed on both faces, along with a small etched brass set for the engines grills complete this amazing kit from Dragon. Six decal options are listed including vehicles from s.Pz.Abt 101,501,503 and 506 in a variety of colourful schemes. The Editor.

9.5/10

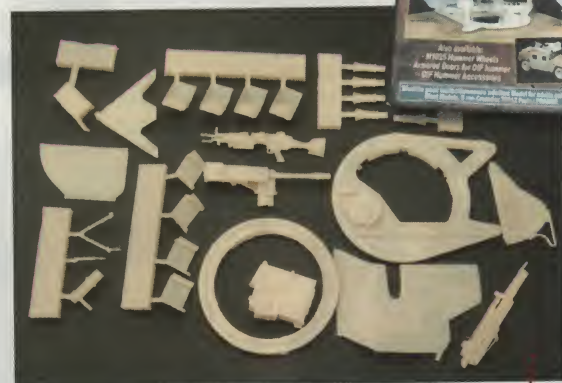
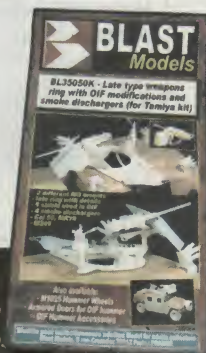


## CALIBRE 72

### 1:72 LSSC FAST RIVER BOAT (VIETNAM SERIES) ITEM NO. 72013

Calibre have produced an unusual but very interesting subject that being the fast attack boat used during the Vietnam War by US Navy SEAL teams for 'brown water' operations. The kit consists of some 36 resin parts and a small brass fret. All parts are flawlessly cast with first class detail. The tiny M60 machine guns are possibly of limited appeal but never the less very well done, again another one of those models that I wouldn't normally have an interest in but now I have seen it really want to build it. The Editor.

8.5/10



## BLAST MODELS

### 1:35 LATE TYPE WEAPONS RING WITH OIF MODIFICATIONS AND SMOKE DISCHARGERS (FOR TAMIYA HUMVEE KIT) ITEM NO. BL35050K

This set from French manufacturer Blast is designed to bring the Tamiya Humvee up to the spec of the vehicles involved in operation Iraqi Freedom. All the parts are superbly cast with just the smallest of mould plugs to remove. The quality throughout is faultless - this is definitely one of those sets that, now I have examined it, makes me want to stop whatever project I'm working on to build it instead. Some of the highlights include highly a detailed Mk 19 40mm grenade launcher, .50 cal and M-249 Minimi machine guns and a superbly detailed scale thickness gun shield. The Editor.

9.5/10





## TAMIYA

1:48 STURMGESCHÜTZ III AUSF.G

SD.KFZ.142/1

ITEM NO.32525

Tamiya continue to press ahead with their 1:48 armour range, and the StuGIII ausf.G is the latest in the series. The kit comes with a cast metal hull as with the previous releases, and all other structures are provided in sandy coloured injection plastic. The tracks come in link and length form complete with track sag moulded-in (very neat), and will just need creative painting, on or off the model. Although the box art does not show it, schürzen side armour panels are included, and are used for one of the three markings options, all of which are in plain overall dark yellow. The kit looks very promising with lots of fine detail, a nicely moulded commander figure and plenty of potential for the addition of aftermarket additions. Marcus Nicholls.

9/10



## GOFFY MODEL

1:72 M4A1 SHERMAN WWII SANDBAG PROTECTION FOR REVELL KIT

ITEM NO.7242

Goffy supply a new upper hull and turret complete with nicely detailed sandbag armour. Also included is a good selection of stowage items including oil cans, bedrolls tarps and backpacks. All of which are well cast with no air bubbles.

A simple but beautifully detailed conversion to upgrade the Revell M4A1/76mm Sherman kit. The Editor.

9/10



## DRAGON

1:35 M4A1 (76MM) W (OPERATION COBRA)

ITEM NO. 6083

This model must be a contender for the worst box art ever! As a young boy it used to be the box art that would draw me to buying and building a particular model, and this just doesn't work.

Thankfully the contents of this box do not reflect the quality of the artwork. What you do get in the box is the most complete and well-detailed injection plastic Sherman kit to date. Some of these highlights include a newly tooled hull and turret.

Both plastic and aluminium barrels are supplied as options. A small-etched brass set featuring headlight and tail light guards, grouser box mesh covers are also included. Dragon have thoughtfully provided all the periscopes in clear plastic. This kit is typical Dragon in that the box is literally bursting at the seams, including both middle pattern and late pattern suspension units, two sets of wheels and tracks as well as a whole host of spare parts.

This is one we will be looking at in more depth in the near future.

Verdict; A must buy for all Sherman fans, can't believe I've given this one to someone else to build... The Editor.

9.5/10







## DRAGON

### 1:35 M4A3E8 SHERMAN LIMITED EDITION (MAJOR ALBIN F. IRZYK) BATTLE OF THE BULGE. ITEM NO.6283

This version of the 'Easy Eight' Sherman was produced for last year's Dragon Expo in the United States. We know it's a year old, but we have just received one so thought it only right we take a look at it, plus I have been known to build the odd Sherman or two and have a bit of a soft spot for them!

I am a bit puzzled by the actual version depicted on the box top, in that it comes with no side fender extensions whatsoever and the tracks are the T80 track most commonly seen on remanufactured HVSS Shermans used during the Korean War - this style of track only appeared in very limited numbers during the closing stages of World War II, and T66 type would have been a more suitable track to be included. Incidentally I haven't managed to find a single picture of an M4A3E8 Sherman without the extended fenders with the distinctive angled braces. Dragon have however supplied a very nice T23 turret with an aluminium gun barrel, along with a small etched brass fret with all the essentials like headlight/tail light and periscope guards. The hull however still suffers from the age old problem of recessed weld seams running around the top edge of the hull. Great if you already have one, it's still a big improvement over other Easy Eights that have been released in the past. But if not, best to wait for the soon to be released Thunderbolt HVSS M4 from Dragon that promises to be stunning. The Editor.

7.5/10



## EXTRATECH

### 1:72 MARMON-HERRINGTON MK. III ITEM NO. EXM 7232

Extratech's kit of the Marmon-Herrington Mk III armoured car has been on the market for some time now but new to the MMI office. This kit is one of a many 1:72 offerings from this Czech company, many of which portray lesser known allied wheeled AFVs. The model depicted is an early version of the Mk III, noticeable by the open, slatted radiator front cover and the large box-shaped light housings on each wheel arch. Upon opening the stout card box we are presented with a single large bag of 23 cream-coloured resin parts as well as a fret of photo-etch brass and a sheet of decals. One of the nice things about Extratech resin kits is the quality of the instructions, especially when compared to some other well-known resin kit manufacturers. The instructions are composed of exploded drawings, designed to reduce any ambiguity of part locations. The instruction leaflet also contains drawings of each individual part with a guide to indicate where the part should be cut from its sprue. Each part is clearly recognisable with a part number displayed on the sprue.

The hull is supplied as a complete solid casting with chassis, suspension and lower engine detail cast in situ. The turret is also a complete casting although provided hollow to be used with the separate photo-etch hatches. In this sample there is no evidence of air bubbles or mis-castings. I always look towards the quality of wheel castings to help me rate a kit. The wheels are simply superb, complete with subtle bolt detail on the hubs. The earlier type radiator cover is provided as a separate piece, designed to be glued to the hull front. The finesse of the cover needs to be seen to be really appreciated, as are the light housings. These could have been done in photo-etch but the resin offerings work really well.

The fret of photo-etch includes 27 further parts including wheel arches, sand channels, pioneer tools and a Bren gun. This is made from two halves to provide sufficient bulk.

The modeller is provided with a selection of main armament including a Boy's anti-tank rifle and a Vickers machine gun. This reflects the diversity of armament employed on the vehicle, much of which was due to field modifications, often using captured Axis guns.

The one minor disappointing aspect of the kit is the inclusion of decals for captured German vehicles only. This is despite the instructions providing painting guides for several allied vehicles.

With such a level of detail packed into this small scale, it is difficult to find true fault with this kit. Keith Goldsworthy

9.5/10









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# Next Issue - On sale July 6th 2006

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## Winter Wespe

A frozen SPG diorama by Wayne Timmo



## Palermo Pounder

Part two of the Editor's Sicilian  
diorama based around the Ordnance  
factory M7 priest.



## Taming The Tiger...

Luke Pitt builds Skybow's 1:48 Early Tiger 1



## Soviet Supergun!

David Bridges scratchbuilds the massive  
Soviet 2A3 Self propelled Gun.



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Don't forget, when using  
solvents such as glues,  
paints, thinners and cleaning  
agents, always ventilate your  
work area thoroughly and  
wear a face mask.

When using power tools,  
side cutters or any tool  
that can suddenly break or  
create high-speed airborne  
particles, wear approved eye  
protectors with hard, clear  
lenses. Please always model  
in safety!

...and much more!

Due to many influencing factors, we cannot guarantee the appearance of the above projects, but we'll try our best!





## TOO MANY PARTS, TOO LITTLE TIME

Are today's superdetailed kits too much of a good thing?

**R**eading some of the threads on the armour modelling websites, as well as the letters sent in to our letters page leads me to think there are two distinct trains of thought when it comes to the type of kits people want.

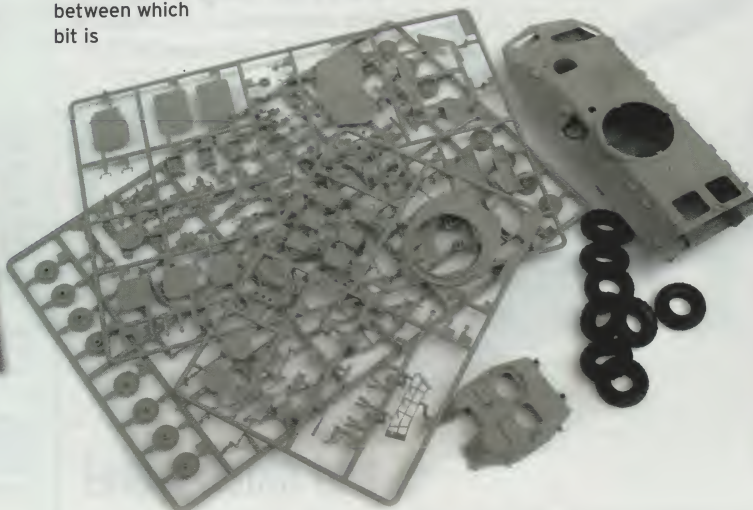
First of all are the modellers that constantly want the very best, most detailed kit possible. This has driven some of the major manufacturers to include turned metal gun barrels, etched brass sets and individual track-links in many of the latest releases, which can often mean an increase in price. This will not hinder the dedicated and serious modellers.

The problem is that these kits have now become very complex

and literally bursting at the seams compared to what was offered in the average kit of only a few years ago. Obviously this will keep the so-called perfectionists happy, but the down side of this is that the more casual, inexperienced or younger modeller could easily put off by the sheer number of parts and their complexity, also many of these extra parts cannot be glued with traditional plastic cements.

I for one loved these super-detailed kits when I used to build for leisure and contribute articles to the odd magazine, but now modelling for my job and editing a model magazine, the line between which bit is

my hobby and what is work when it comes to actually building models has become very blurred. Because of this, when I do build a model I have started to look at something quick and easy to build instead of the more involved builds I used to. I have a weird feeling that the more experienced I get the easier I want the kits that I do build so I can spend the time I have on the painting which is the bit I enjoy most. I think I will have to ask for a team of Umpa Lumpas to do my building for me, anyone know where I can get some? ■



### PRODUCT OF THE MONTH

I recently received a set of the Tensocrom II colours from Lifecolor. These are chromatic surface-active agents! The first three colours are designed to simulate fuel, oil and kerosene, these are perfect for stains and spills. The second part of the set features three metallic finishes; Burnt Blue, Gold and Brown. These have been formulated to replicate some of the different heat effects that appear on jet engine exhaust nozzles, etc.

I suppose I'm like a lot of modellers and tend to stick with techniques and products I'm familiar with. When I do try something new and get results I'm happy with I wonder how I ever coped without it...

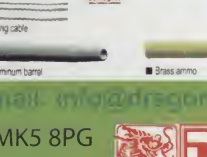
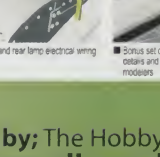
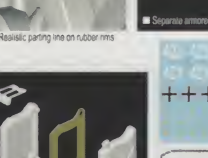
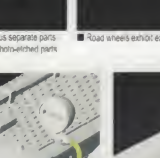
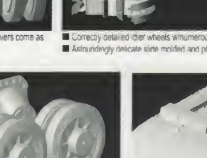
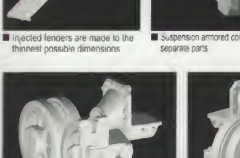
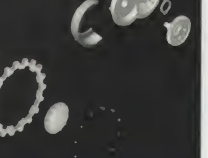
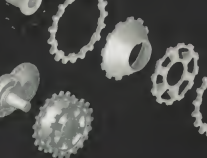
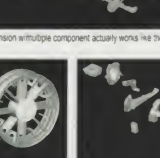
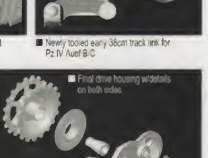
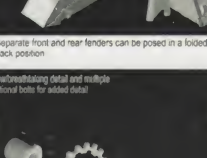
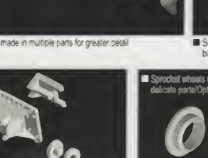
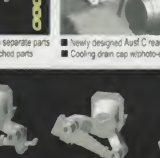
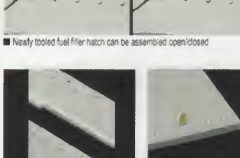
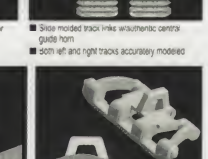
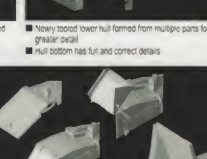
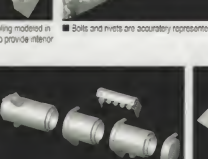
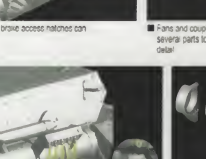
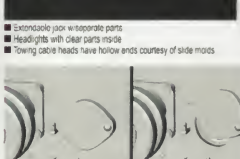
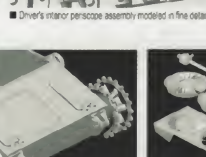
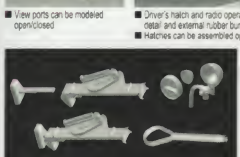
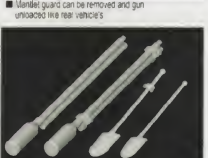
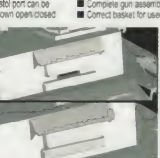
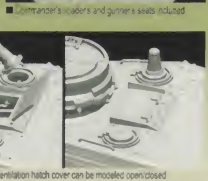
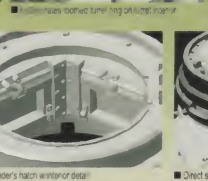
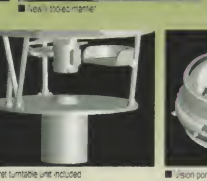
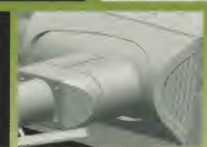
This has definitely been the case with these Tensocrom colours, having first tried the oil and fuel stain colours on the Tamiya 1:48 SU122 in issue two. I was really impressed with them and more recently I tried the metallic colours on the engine tailpipes of Trumpeter's CH-47A Chinook Helicopter to simulate the heat discolouration on the jet pipes. I had never tried this before but after a quick practice was really happy with the final results. Definitely a set I would recommend to anyone. Available from The Airbrush Company, Cammet and LSA Models.

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Dragon Kits are distributed in the UK by: The Hobby Company, Knowlhill, Milton Keynes, MK5 8PG  
Dragon models are available from all good model shops





**1/48  
MM**  
MILITARY MINIATURE SERIES

# HAMMER OF THE WERHMACHT

**1/48 GERMAN PANZERKAMPFWAGEN III Ausf. L**

(ITEM 32524)



## ABOUT THE GERMAN PANZER III Ausf. L

The Panzer III Ausf. L was introduced in July 1942 as an attempt to improve the tank's survivability in the face of heavily armed T34 and KV tanks encountered on the Russian Front. Armament consisted of an improved, long barreled KwK50 L/60 tank gun, which was effective against Russian T34 tanks up to a range of 600m, plus two 7.92mm MG34 machine guns. Front armor thickness was increased to 57mm, and 20mm thick spaced armor was added to the front hull and gun mantlet as well. The suspension system was strengthened to cope with the 200kg of added weight, and other modifications were made to ensure smooth engine operation in extreme weather conditions. A total of 635 Ausf. L tanks were produced by the end of 1942, many seeing active service on the Eastern and North African Fronts.

## ABOUT THE MODEL

This scaled-down version of the 1/48 Panzer III Ausf. L features masterful detail in a compact package. The tank's L/60 cannon is accurately depicted, together with impressive reproduction of the spaced armor panels added to the turret and hull front. Further exquisite detailing, which is amazingly simple to assemble, includes spare track roller wheels and miscellaneous equipment mounted onto the hull. This model includes separate parts to depict hull-side escape hatches and shot deflector below the gun mantlet, features that were dropped from later versions of the Ausf. L. Assembly type treads even capture realistic slackness of the upper track section. Kit includes 3 sets of markings to depict units including the sPzAbt 502 serving in Russia and the 10th Panzer Division in Tunisia.



Diecast lower hull gives model satisfying weight and presence.



Spaced armor on turret and hull front is realistically depicted

## 1/48 MM SERIES LINEUP

Offering an incredibly wide variety of choices, including tanks, light armor and support vehicles of both Axis and Allied forces. Although small in size, these models accurately capture the details of the full size vehicles. Add figures and accessories to create your own large scale desktop battle scenes.



GERMAN TIGER I EARLY PRODUCTION (32504)



M4 SHERMAN EARLY PRODUCTION (32505)



GERMAN STURMGESCHÜTZ III Ausf. B (32507)



GERMAN TANK DESTROYER HETZER MID PRODUCTION (32511)



RUSSIAN TANK T34/76 MODEL 1941 (CAST TURRET) (32515)



GERMAN PANZERKAMPFWAGEN IV Ausf. J (32518)



U.S. TANK DESTROYER M10 (MID PRODUCTION) (32519)



GERMAN PANTHER TYPE G (32520)



GERMAN TANK DESTROYER JAGDPANTHER LATE VERSION (32522)



U.S. MEDIUM TANK M4A1 SHERMAN (32523)



**TAMIYA**

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The 1/48 MM Series continues to grow, with a number of new items planned for release over the coming months. Watch this space for more information!